

The German Tribune

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Bonn must persevere with good-neighbour policy towards GDR



State Secretaries Bahr and Kohl are negotiating the "establishment of normal good-neighbourly relations such as are customary between states independent of one another."

This, the true state of affairs in Central Europe, is not without repercussions, not only for the two German states but also for third parties.

If the intra-German talks are a case of two independent states arranging their mutual relations as equals other countries can hardly be expected not to follow suit with East Berlin, with Bonn or with both.

Sweden, Denmark, Finland and India are all paving the way for establishing full diplomatic relations with the GDR in one form or another.

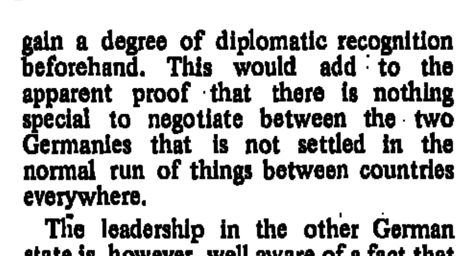
They at least do not intend to be the last to accept the second German state when, as will soon be the case, it emerges from the international quarantine to which it has been subject for the past twenty-odd years.

The Bonn Federal government, which has at long last rid its policy on Germany of the odium of being a tissue of falsehoods, stands prepared.

Next autumn both this country and the GDR will probably gain admission to the United Nations. By then the GDR will in any case no longer be an international pariah. The whole process will probably take less than a year.

Even so, the Federal government would have liked the process of recognition to proceed in an orderly fashion, the fundamental relationship between Bonn and East Berlin being satisfactorily settled prior to recognition of the GDR by third parties.

The GDR, of course, would prefer to gain a degree of diplomatic recognition beforehand. This would add to the apparent proof that there is nothing special to negotiate between the two Germanies that is not settled in the normal run of things between countries everywhere.



The leadership in the other German state is, however, well aware of a fact that enables Bonn too to bear the minor irritation of possibly premature moves by India or the Scandinavians. In the final analysis it is the great powers who will decide whether or not the two German states are admitted to the United Nations.

Bonn's Western allies will not allow the GDR to join the UN until the Federal Republic gives the word.

Forthcoming conferences on security and cooperation in Europe will have little point unless the GDR, a state in the heart of Europe, *is permitted to participate on* a basis of equality.

There would, on the other hand, be even less point in seriously debating cooperation in Europe as long as good-neighbourly relations are conspicuous by their absence in Germany, the heart of Europe.

Were a number of countries to wait no longer and establish full diplomatic relations with the GDR a little prematurely Bonn's time schedules might be upset but a few ambassadors more in East Berlin are basically neither here nor there. Bonn and East Berlin still have to reach agreement.

Critics of the Bonn government's policy towards the Eastern Bloc and on the German Question accuse the government of being to blame for the growing pressure to recognise the GDR.

Since we are parleying with the GDR, it is argued, we can hardly object to others at least following suit. This presupposes that we are in a position to ensure that the GDR remains as isolated as it has been in the past for some time to come. But who seriously believes this?

Had it not been for the decision to combine the inevitable declaration of the GDR's coming of age with an attempt to write the declaration in German, the common language of both countries, and so comply with the provisions of Bonn's Basic Law, developments would have proceeded regardless.

The GDR will soon entertain diplomatic relations with most countries of the world, possibly excepting a few Nato states, regardless whether or not Bonn approves of the idea. This being the case, in the long run even Bonn's allies would have difficulty in keeping East Berlin out of the UN.

The Federal government has no intention of allowing itself to the pushed for time. Negotiations are not to be conducted with the aim of swift agreement in time for the general election in view.

Even so it is not out of the question that the current government might yet conclude the first part of its *Ostpolitik* and German policy prior to the elections.

But such conclusions as might yet be reached will not be final. Arguments about the continued existence of a German nation and the rights of the Four Powers in Germany as a whole may sound pallid but they relate to human rights in Germany as a whole.

People in both parts of Germany harbour hopes of deriving personal advantage from the fact that both State Secretaries, Bonn's Egon Bahr and East Berlin's Michael Kohl, hail from the same part of the country and unquestionably have no need whatsoever of an interpreter.

A Christian Democratic and Christian Social Union government ought to carry on where its predecessor had left off – in theory, that is. In practice one needs only to recall the Bundestag division on the Moscow and Warsaw treaties.

The Opposition abstained on ratification. To this day the Christian Democrats have failed to clarify matters. Was their abstention a covert yes or a covert no?

Whatever the answer may be, it must be assumed on the basis of past experience that a CDU/CSU government would let *Ostpolitik* and German policy slide for some time, which might wreak havoc with much of what has so far been accomplished.

The present Federal Government has made a good ideal of progress in both sectors but three years have evidently not been enough. Time is needed to accomplish the equally important remainder. At the moment there is no one else capable of doing the job.

Hans-Herbert Gaebel

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 19 August 1972)

IN THIS ISSUE



IOC meets in Munich

President Gustav Heinemann (centre) welcomes France's Count Jean de Beaumont at the 19 August Munich meeting of the International Olympic Committee. On the President's right is IOC president Avery Brundage. Willi Daume of the Federal Republic's NOC is on the extreme right.

Gorch Fock en route for Kiel

Gorch Fock, the Federal Republic cadet training schooner, is fiercely contesting the current lead of the Polish windjammer Dar Pomorza in the race from Cowes, Isle of Wight, to Skagen, Denmark. Once they reach the Skagerrak the sailing vessels will proceed to Travemünde and the Bay of Kiel. (Photos: dpa)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The great powers and the United Nations – Dr Waldheim's dilemma

DIE WELT

With a third of the twentieth century still to elapse the power and impotence of international bodies remains a purely philosophical topic, yet it is understandable enough that Kurt Waldheim, the UN Secretary-General, has chosen to deal with it in the context of a historical dimension and a political postulate in his first report to the General Assembly.

In their quintessence Dr Waldheim's tenets indicate, however, that he is fundamentally at a loss for an answer. On the one hand he refers to the concert of great powers that kept the peace in the nineteenth century; on the other he reminds critics of the United Nations that the world body is not a sovereign institution independent of its members but an association of sovereign nations with equal rights.

The dilemma of the United Nations consists of the irreconcilable contradiction between the principles of supranational order and the fact that nation-states alone exercise sovereign power. The priority of nation-state sovereignty over international solidarity is even incorporated in the UN Charter.

The realities are also apparent in the discrepancy between the constitutional principle of equal rights for all member-countries and the facts of power. This disparity is similarly impossible to resolve unless, that is, countries are rendered equal by an act of God.

Great powers cannot be eliminated, nuclear powers less so than ever. International moves directed against them are doomed to failure unless they amount in reality to no more than covert moves by one great power or group of powers against another, as in the Korean War or the Congo.

The basic ideas behind the 1945 Charter may, as the Secretary-General indicates, be outdated but they still correspond to the realities of the international community because power and the means to act still lies in the hands of individual countries, first and foremost the great powers.

There are five of them, the five main victors of the Second World War, including France and China, and as permanent members of the UN Security Council they enjoy the privilege of a veto on all important issues.

Article 12 of the Charter invests in the Security Council peacekeeping and arbitration powers that provide it with a head's start on the General Assembly.

This aristocratic constitutional principle presupposing differing categories of international law and granting power a privileged position is the legal outcome of the historical situation obtaining in 1945.

It – and it alone – is the legal basis of the concert of great powers that Kurt Waldheim considers unsuitable as a means of containing crises and arbitrating in disputes and thus unsuitable as a means of maintaining international law and order.

The choice of 1945 as a deadline is, of course, arbitrary. Other countries, such as Britain or France, could stake equally valid claims. But this does not alter the fact that the selection is a problematic business.

Dr Waldheim's line of argument does, however, demonstrate the political weakness of criticism that is in principle justified.

The process of technological progress and democratisation is, he maintains, giving rise to a new form of international order. In the long term the old system of power blocs can no longer be accepted by the peoples of the world no matter how effective it may have been in the past.

"At the present stage in history the interests, wisdom and significance of the overwhelming majority of small and medium-sized powers cannot be ignored by a lasting system of world order."

This would be all well and good if only the majority of small and medium-sized powers were in a position to look after their own interests.

Were they to do so they would have to join forces in regional groupings capable of action and thus as homogeneous as possible. They would, that is, have to create new power dimensions. This is to all intents and purposes the formation of blocs or the establishment of super-states.

The UN Secretary-General is again right in warning the countries of the world against the illusion that better relations between the great powers would serve the cause of international detente.

Relations between great powers invariably veer between conflict and rivalry on the one hand and hegemony in condominium or straightforward divide and rule on the other. Great powers will gain the upper hand no matter whether they are on the best of terms or at daggers drawn.

The majority of UN members are, experience has shown, incapable of joint action. When the great powers are unable to settle international conflicts either because they are unable to arrive at a common denominator of their respective interests or because, even though they are not at loggerheads, they cannot agree on joint intervention it is difficult to imagine how "the overwhelming majority of small and medium-sized powers" are to be able to perform the feat.

When concerted action by the great powers to resolve a conflict is either unsuccessful or not undertaken because the prospects of success are too slender it remains to be seen how the United Nations on its own is to accomplish the task independently of the great powers.

Lothar Ruehl

(Die Welt, 16 August 1972)

Bonn must take time over negotiations with East Berlin

East Berlin views the exchange of missions with consular powers with Switzerland as the establishment of inter-governmental relations. There is no need to be upset by this nomenclature though.

This arrangement was prepared well in advance and falls a good deal short of the threshold of diplomatic recognition even though it considerably impairs the status of the Swiss delegation in West Berlin.

One can hardly hold it against the Swiss that, some time after the demise of the Hallstein Doctrine, they have endeavoured to find ways and means of fittingly representing their trading interests and the interests of Swiss nationals in the GDR, not forgetting the issue of expropriated Swiss property.

At Switzerland's request the East Berlin trade mission is, moreover, to be stationed not in Berne, the Swiss capital, but in Zurich, thus taking further into account this country's request that Switzerland stop short at full recognition until the negotiations between Bonn and East Berlin on the establishment of normal relations have reached a successful conclusion.

This request, which goes by the designation "Scheel Doctrine," has been complied with by the Swiss government. There can be no denying the fact that although the GDR has been accorded diplomatic recognition by twelve Communist and eighteen other countries it has yet to be recognised by a single Nato member or European neutral.

Similar arrangements will no doubt be made by other countries as time goes by. Bonn need not be alarmed. In Finland's case, a special one, the last word has yet to be spoken about timing (Finland has commenced recognition negotiations with the GDR but has also undertaken to negotiate with Bonn and East Berlin in parallel).

What really matters is that Bonn should not allow itself to be pushed for time in negotiations with the GDR.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 August 1972)

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Boumedienne moots Med security meet

President Boumedienne of Algeria cannot be considered hostile to the Soviet Union, which makes it all the more surprising that the leader of the largest country in the West of the Arab world takes a markedly positive view of the enforced withdrawal of most Soviet military personnel from Egypt.

In a somewhat less spectacular manner than President Sadat of Egypt Colonel Boumedienne recently engineered a considerable reduction in the manpower of the 1,000-strong team of Soviet military advisers in Algeria. The Algerian leader, who normally keeps his thoughts to himself, has also outlined his views to American writer Cyrus L. Sulzberger.

Were the Soviet withdrawal from Egypt to be followed by a corresponding American gesture, President Boumedienne said, it could mark the beginning of a historic turning-point leading not only to a solution of the Middle East conflict but also to a process of neutralisation of the Mediterranean, this necessarily including the vacation of the Med by the great powers.

He, Boumedienne, saw no advantage in the presence of US and Soviet fleets. If anything they were a drawback in that they constituted a safety hazard and hamstrung efforts to bring about cooperation in the Mediterranean.

The Algerian leader's views are specified in the Mediterranean Charter submitted by Algiers to the conference of non-aligned countries meeting in Guayana. Its targets are greater solidarity among Mediterranean countries, the abolition of foreign bases and the withdrawal of foreign flotillas based in the Med.

In President Boumedienne's view a conference of non-aligned Mediterranean states ought to be convened to speed up the process.

Foreign Minister Bouteflika, one of the Colonel's closest associates and a loyal mouthpiece of the Algerian leader, recently complained in the course of an official visit to Madrid that Europe still considered itself to be the hub of world affairs.

Referring to the projected European security conference he noted that "if peace in Europe is important it must also be of importance in the Mediterranean, where causes of continual tension must be eliminated."

Countries on both shores of the Mediterranean that set store by their national independence ought, he felt, to outline their own views on security and cooperation at a Mediterranean conference.

Algerian initiatives in the Mediterranean have not come out of thin air. They are tacitly approved of by Morocco and expressly welcomed by Tunisia and Libya even though differences of opinion may exist on minor details due to ideological differences between the systems of government to be found in North Africa.

On the occasion of his recent visit to Paris President Bourguiba of Tunisia certainly emerged as an advocate of the Mediterranean conference mooted by Algeria. He also agreed with Algiers in further demanding that appropriate consideration be paid to Maghreb interests at the forthcoming European security conference.

The idea of some kind of demilitarisation of the Mediterranean is nothing new. Some time ago President Pompidou of France also proposed that the Mediterranean be transformed into a "sea of peace" – a splendid idea of which little has since been heard.

The Algerians have tenaciously retained the idea but many questions remain to be answered. Who is to participate in a Mediterranean conference? Algeria would prefer attendance to be limited to the "non-aligned" Mediterranean countries. But who is really non-aligned? France? Spain? Egypt? There is the rub.

The Tunisian proposal for all countries bordering the Mediterranean, including Nato members Italy, Greece and Turkey, to attend would seem to be more logical, although the extent of likely agreement would, of course, be less from the start.

Besides, as regards international tension in the Mediterranean, the main protagonists, the great powers, cannot altogether be disregarded.

Perhaps, as President Boumedienne says, it is now up to the United States to give some indication of whether and if so to what extent it is able and willing to contribute towards a relaxation of tension in the Mediterranean.

Jürgen W. Plinke

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 August 1972)

PARTY POLITICS

Young Socialists paint the Godesberg manifesto red

Frankfurter Allgemeine

"Granddad's SPD is dead," prominent Social Democrats were telling us some time ago. But last year the SPD looked much like the "rotes Konzil", as Harden called the party-political meeting seventy years ago, when Bebel, the paragon of Marxistic orthodoxy, spoke on the revisionists.

Their spokesman, Vollmar, was caught in the same offside position at the meeting in Dresden in 1903 as Karl Schiller was at the 1971 conference in Bonn.

And the Young Socialist slogan about the "Corpus Christi" Socialists, who only honour the dogma on high days and holidays, but fail to carry Marx' *Capital* under their arms every day, stems from Bebel.

The confirmed Marxists of the turn of the century would have felt at home two generations later at the SPD conference at which Capitalism was denounced as the basic evil of our society.

But at the Bad Godesberg conference of twelve years ago when the Bad Godesberg Programme was ratified they would not have felt at home. Party programmes suffer the same fate as constitutions – they are capable of various interpretations and these are altered as time goes by and need change.

Many people in the SPD no longer put the same interpretation on the Bad Godesberg Programme as they ascribed to it when it was new. If one of the few who voted against the Programme at the time, von Oertzen, now claims that he, too, subscribes to the Programme, it is not he that has changed, but merely the interpretation of the Programme in large sectors of the party.

That all Social Democrats are Socialists is rather something that is read into the Bad Godesberg Programme than something that is read out of it.

Marxis s of the old and new schools are now championing the Bad Godesberg Programme, but at the time it was first formulated very little mention was made of Marx.

The flag of the Bad Godesberg Programme can be seen fluttering even over the left flank of the SPD. Old and new Marxists want to see the party waving the Godesberg banner. The fact that the wind is blowing this banner in the faces of the party has been experienced by even such a prominent member as Minister Georg Leber. He is one of the "great" ministers of the party.

Nevertheless he has heard a threat that his candidature in his constituency is endangered because he has aroused the anger of the Young Socialists. In South Hesse this is no empty threat. And in other places too.

One SPD member of the Bundestag, who is not in the front rank of the parliamentary party, but who has important functions on a important subcommittee, knows that because the party's left wing have decided he is too right wing he will not be returned to the Bundestag in the next elections.

He will not be the only victim of the battle cry of the Young Socialists that they will break the right-wing majority in the SPD parliamentary party.

Those who are threatened by this tendency are attacking the complacency of their party and the leaders of the parliamentary party. Do they want a "leftist" Social Democrat parliamentary party? Certainly they would like to see a patching up of the rift between the Chancellor's spokesman State Secretary Conrad Ahlers and the Young Socialists.

For it cannot please the Chancellor to see his spokesman threatened with points of order from party procedure. But the party's national business affairs manager complains that Ahlers has not yet been in the party long enough to have taken on the smell of the stable.

This is understandable when one considers how his sharp tongue has lashed the Young Socialists.

But *Vorwärts*, the party's weekly publication is aiming slings and arrows with Young Socialist warheads at Georg Leber, a tried and tested Social Democrat who certainly has the smell of the stable about him.

The Ahlers matter raises the question of just what criticism of the Young Socialists can be exercised in the senior party. The Leber case throws up the diametrically opposite question, for in this case the Young Socialists do not appear to recognise the characteristics of an old comrade.

It seems as if the Word that called for solidarity from the ranks of the Young Socialists in the past has now been dubbed old and stale.

The scornful remark in *Vorwärts* that the Minister fears for his re-election and is pleading for support contains the truth that he can no longer be sure of renowed candidature in his own constituency, especially as he will not canvass for re-election in front of his critics.

But at the last general elections who would ever have suspected that Georg Leber would have to fear for his candidature next time around? It is not Leber who has changed his tune all of a sudden. He has remained the same Social Democrat he ever was.

If he is now accused of standing too far to the right the allegation is not on solid foundations and merely means that the SPD is veering towards the left.

The Chancellor and Chairman of the party never tires of giving reassurances that the party's guideline is and will remain the Bad Godesberg Programme.

But the Programme is decked out in ever more colours and the red is tending to predominate more and more. Anyone who was at the Bad Godesberg conference more than a decade ago will remember that red was not then decided upon as the party's basic colour.

But the warning issued then that too much red will be like a red rag to the electoral bull and scare off voters obviously does not scare Bebel's new disciples in the SPD. The greatest concession they have made is the postponement of their attack on the party's long-term programme till after the elections.

This is a period of grace for Helmut Schmidt, the Chairman of the party commission that drew up this programme. But there will be no period of grace for the "right" of the party when the lists of candidates are drawn up. In the name of Karl Marx.

But those who fly the banner of Marx are living in the eighteenth century, even though they prattle about the march into the year 2000.

Alfred Rapp

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 August 1972)

Brandt & Scheel in the lead, pollsters say

Frankfurter Neue Presse

Brandt and Scheel are considered a much more effective team by the electorate at the moment than the Barzel-Strauss combination, according to the Director of the Institute for Applied Social Sciences (Infas) in Bad Godesberg, Klaus Liepelt. His verdict was based on the most recent surveys.

But he did limit this appraisal somewhat by stating that the Federal Chancellor was generally in a stronger position than the leader of the Opposition, on account of the authority vested in him.

Herr Liepelt said he could not yet tell whether the FDP's position would be the crucial factor again after these elections as after the 1969 vote. But investigations had shown that at present the FDP is regarded in a very favourable light by the electorate. He considers that the FDP will be stronger in the next Bundestag.

Herr Liepelt pointed out that at the next elections there would be 4,700,000 new voters as compared with 1969. Of these 2,400,000 were under 21 in 1969 and a further 2,300,000 are still under 21 but may vote now that the age limit has been reduced to eighteen.

Two million people who voted in 1969 are now dead. According to the latest figures the SPD/FDP coalition has ten per

Continued on page 5

Junge Union grows more critical of its parent parties

The *Junge Union*, the CDU/CSU's youth organisation, which is becoming a more critical force as time goes by, has at least one aim in common with the Young Socialists: the JU also wants to have a large say in who are put forward as candidates at the next election, feeling that it does not have a sufficient say in the Bundestag at present.

For ages the JU was simply an organisation for those who wanted to make a career in politics, a first stepping stone for those without firm political convictions, but who wanted to help the CDU/CSU in their election campaigns, but now the JU intends to put into practice the new course decided upon in Hamm at the national congress in 1969.

In Hamm the young Christian Democrats decided to take an independent and critical attitude to the parent party. They want to influence the CDU/CSU in such a way that within the parties the idea of "solid reforms" gains ground, as JU Chairman Jürgen Echternach put it. The youth group wants the party to "pursue a free policy looking to the future and devoid of ideological cliches", and feels that this policy must be pushed through by politicians who are not "worn out".

On more than one occasion already the JU has opposed the parent parties on their education, structural and social welfare policies. At party-political conferences the JU has been involving itself more deeply and has taken many unorthodox decisions.

Only a few weeks ago the JU produced its own draft of a basic programme, which will be put up for ratification at the "Deutschlandtag" at the end of September in Fulda. The party youngsters have probably given many dyed-in-the-wool conservatives shivers down their spine. For the JU has sworn to pursue its own line however controversial this may be.

The young members of the CDU/CSU want to make this "leavening effect" felt more strongly in the place where the legal decisions are taken, namely in the Bundestag. Their leadership stated recently on returning from a visit to Algeria at a conference in the plush, bourgeois Stern Hotel in Bonn how their aim could be achieved.

JU Chairman Echternach stated at a press conference afterwards that it was self-evident that the JU would support

Hannoversche Allgemeine

the CDU/CSU in the election campaign and at local meetings in the next few weels efforts would be made to get more JU members put up as candidates.

Obviously this is likely to be a more peaceful procedure than in the case of the Young Socialists who intend to bombard unwanted potential candidates with barbed questions, to draw up their "criteria of worthiness" and wait on the sidelines with their own choice of candidate.

The JU hopes that at the conference of delegates it will be able to win the day with the power of its persuasion. But even the JU leaders have their doubts about whether this will be successful in the light of the explosive nature of the programme they have drawn up.

The JU knows that in the next election campaign the CDU/CSU will take the field of battle intending to attack all the leftist tendencies of the SPD/FDP coalition. In this battle, Echternach says sceptically, many delegates would prefer to send in their old champions than new young blood.

Alongside its electoral intentions the JU issued another document recently which is likely to cause controversy in the party. In the basic programma the JU mentioned that economically speaking the main emphasis should be shifted from production to the self-justification of working men, and that social welfare meant a greater emphasis on public works. And now the JU leadership has come out with its ideas on real estate laws. This differs very little from the ideas laid down recently by the SPD on this matter.

The JU demands that the present tax reliefs on land for building should be cut back and that appreciation in the value of land or buildings as a result of public planning should be divided up for the good of the community as a whole. In other words the young conservatives, like the Social Democrats are in favour of a tax on estate value gains.

With plans such as these the JU will have difficulty gaining ground in the parent parties, not only now but also later. There is no telling how many of their number will follow their deputy national Chairman Graf Stauffenberg, who has already been nominated as the CSU candidate in Starnberg-Wolfsratshausen.

Echternach refused to say how many candidates he hopes to get in from the JU. In fact he could not even tell the astonished assembly in Bonn how many members the Junge Union already had in the Bundestag! After a little hesitation he guessed: "Something like thirty". There are 45.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 August 1972)

■ LABOUR

Careers training programmes cost money but are well worth while

DIE ZEIT

The Nuremberg-based Federal Institute of Labour — the supreme labour authority in the Federal Republic and responsible for the 146 regional labour exchanges — has once again hit the headlines because of its financial situation.

The Institute has been given a large number of new duties over the years to add to what was once just the simple administration of unemployment insurance. This extension of activities has also involved a rise in expenditure, outstripping income.

The Institute's financial position is indeed precarious and it can no longer operate without making annual losses of millions of Marks. This is serious despite the milliards owned by the Institute.

The Institute has accumulated almost four milliard Marks over the years as an iron reserve. But the law demands reserves of ten milliard Marks in order to support an army of unemployed resulting from a serious economic crisis. The constant decrease in reserves — they amounted to almost seven milliard Marks in 1966 — is an alarm signal.

Critics are quick to accuse the Labour Institute of wastage. The sources of this evil seem easy to find — the increase in expenditure on career training and the 1969 labour promotion law responsible for this state of affairs.

This law does indeed cost a lot of money. One and a half milliard Marks — almost a third of the Institute's total budget — was spent as a result in 1971. But the charge of wastage is no more than a front.

The Federal Labour Institute has always been a thorn in the flesh of conservatives and they suspected that the end of a person's responsibility for himself was at hand when the State promised to finance career training and re-training schemes.

But this measure is an important step towards creating the necessary equality of opportunity in the world of labour and introducing more welfare into our economic and social system. The fact that the Institute is carrying out this function is no reason to criticise this.

People talking of wastage should first take a good look at the law. It gives the authorities little room for manoeuvre — strict limits are set on the activities of the Federal Institute.

It must not be overlooked that only 181,500 of the 264,000 applications for grants were approved in 1970. Many of the cases cited over-hastily by the press as examples of how even dubious schemes were approved never developed beyond the application stage as they were consistently rejected.

The colour poster inviting people to their local labour exchange to see whether they can profit from the scheme has also been criticised as a waste. But it is not an official invitation to make money from public funds — it is simply the fulfilment of the legal obligation to inform the public of their opportunities.

A survey by the Federal Statistics Bureau reveals how necessary action of this type is. Workers with a low standard of education do not take advantage of the opportunities offered by the law. Only eight per cent of workers aged between 20 and 55 with an elementary school education decide to take further training courses. Only two per cent attend re-training courses.

The situation is completely different where graduates are concerned. Almost one quarter of employees with university or college qualifications have profited from these measures.

The Federal Statistics Bureau concludes that the desire for further training decreases in the same proportion as educational qualifications. This cannot be the intention of modern welfare policies.

The Federal Labour Institute itself came to the same conclusions. It found that white-collar workers and civil servants in senior positions make far more use of further training schemes — largely as a result of better information about the opportunities available — than skilled and unskilled workers.

This state of affairs is paradoxical if the social differences in our society are to be overcome through the mobility of labour. It is here that the labour promotion law could be an aid to all workers who want promotion and are able to face up to the increased demands this would involve.

The reason the grants have involved so much expenditure can often be traced to the greed of unscrupulous businessmen. The organisers of some further training courses sometimes raised their fees drastically. Fees often rose by several hundred per cent within the course of a year. Nobody took exception to this despite the fact that the good will of the State was being scandalously exploited.

The Federal Institute of Labour reacted by stating that fees would not be fully repaid from 1 January 1972 onwards. Instead, a lump sum would be paid. The Institute is therefore saving money in those cases where people have tried to fleece the State.

The type of courses backed have now been more strictly defined in order to stem the flood of millions of Marks in those cases where financial backing does not appear to be appropriate.

The labour promotion law would be in serious danger if the Institute were to be told to economise at all costs. This would amount to a retrograde step which can only be regretted.

But as the dwindling reserves cannot be tapped ad infinitum, a way must be found that does not affect the substance of the law nor strain the finances of the Institute to such an extent.

One way to reduce costs but not the extent of labour promotion would be to increase the amount of credit granted. In the long term a regular fund could be set up for these low-interest or interest-free loans and new measures could always be financed from it.

That would not be incompatible with the idea of equal opportunities either. Even though the State helps a person's career, it does not need to meet the costs.

A person achieving a better professional position as a result of State aid should pay back this money when he is earning a higher income. Another person can then be helped to climb a few rungs up the ladder.

This would also provide an incentive to make the most economic use of the facilities available. Free further training courses and people treating the whole scheme as no more than a pleasant leisure-time activity would then be a thing of the past.

There would be fewer housewives who decide to have themselves trained as stenotypists — at no cost to themselves — and then never practise this profession and in fact never even had the intention of practising it.

Raising the contribution to the Institute (often described incorrectly as an unemployment insurance contribution) can only be thought of as the last way out of financial straits.

Increasing workers' contributions would only provide new ammunition to the opponents of the labour promotion law. This would be detrimental to a forward-looking law that may not be perfect but which does combine State responsibility and private initiative in a reasonable manner — and could combine them even better. *Klaus-Peter Schmid*

(Die Zeit, 4 August 1972)

Both firms and staff profit from staff shares schemes

There are already some four hundred thousand staff shareholders in the Federal Republic — more than eleven per cent of the estimated shareholder total of three and a half million. But many workers do not appreciate staff shares as a means of participating in industrial wealth.

About two hundred thousand members of staff at the Bayer chemical works applied for staff shares between 1953 and 1971 but the number of staff shareholders within the concern today is still only around 22,000.

It must however be considered that many of the workers switched to other securities after the first eighteen months and are therefore not included in the figures.

Staff shares issued by Bayer between 1953 and 1971 were worth 92.1 million Marks, about five per cent of the basic capital of 1,835 million Marks. Up to now 34 per cent of the staff shares — 31.3 million Marks worth — have been sold and 18.7 per cent — 17.3 million Marks worth — have been exchanged for other securities: The Bayer management state that many workers sold their shares in order to purchase their own houses or flats.

There are about eighty public firms with more than a thousand shareholders — 34 of them have issued staff shares. Concerns from nearly all branches of industry issue these staff shares. Electricity concerns, chemicals and banks top the list.

The proportion of staff actually applying for shares varies widely. Ninety per cent of the staff of the Bekula power supply concern applied for shares in 1971. The figure for the Hamburgische Elektrizitätswerke (HEW) was 81 per cent. But only about 25 per cent of Siemens workers wanted shares.

Statistics published by the Hoechst chemicals works shows why there is such a discrepancy in the figures of the various branches. Of the staff shares issued by Hoechst in 1970 a total of 66.4 per cent were taken up by white-collar workers while only 22.6 per cent went to blue-collar workers. This shows that blue-collar workers are less prepared to acquire shares than the salaried staffs.

The inclination to buy shares depends of course on the amount of income available. But as white-collar workers do not always earn more than blue-collar workers, this suggests that blue-collar workers should be given more information about shares as a form of investment.

On acquiring a share a member of staff participates in the productive capital of the firm — a goal that has been discussed heatedly in many places in recent years.

Shares represent an object of real value and offer some protection against inflation. On top of this, staff shares are normally issued at preferential rates. Discount can be as high as fifty per cent.

Shareholders and Staff

Company	Shareholders (latest figures)	Staff Shareholders	Staff (1971 figure)
Siemens	330,000	60,000	306,000
Hoechst	370,000	35,000	142,000
RWE	180,000	28,000	56,000
Bayer	458,000	22,000	112,000
Dresdner Bank	110,000	17,000	24,000
Commerzbank	100,000	10,000	18,000
HEW	25,000	6,000	6,000

Staff shareholders can make a good profit when stock exchange rates rise. A Siemens worker buying the maximum possible amount of shares between 1969 and 1971 — three, four and six staff shares for each year at a total cost of 2,028 Marks — will today own thirteen shares worth 3,783 Marks at current stock exchange rates. On top of this he will also have 140 Marks from drawing rights and 171 Marks worth of dividends.

If the worker had invested his shares according to the savings premium law, he would receive an extra 456 Marks or so at a savings bonus rate of twenty per cent. His original investment would therefore have brought a return of 4,550 Marks.

The profit made by staff shareholders can be great — as in Siemens. But the risk involved can also be great in some circumstances as the staff shareholder is treated as a normal shareholder, apart from the usually advantageous price he is charged for the shares.

Staff shares also offer the firm itself certain benefits. Philip Rosenthal told the last annual general meeting of the Rosenthal works that the fluctuation and sickness rate registered within the firm was below the industrial average.

He claimed that this was due to his firm's scheme for capital wealth accumulation. Rosenthal's had invested six hundred thousand in the scheme and the costs saved mounted to about five hundred thousand Marks. *Gudrun Stämpfli*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 11 August 1972)

■ LEGISLATION

Aid for the seriously handicapped no longer limited to war or work cases

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

Seriously handicapped persons are those who are permanently hindered in their working capability by fifty per cent or more as a result of physical, mental or psychological impediments. Also included in this category are handicapped persons with a permanent decrease in working capability of thirty to fifty per cent.

"Up to now it is largely only seriously impeded war or industrial accident victims who have been given special occupational protection. The 1953 Seriously Impaired Persons Law is being extended by the Seriously Handicapped Persons Law planned by Federal Labour Minister Arendt to all the seriously handicapped, irrespective of the cause of the handicap. At the same time the existing laws are to be extended on a number of points."

This is the preamble to a communiqué issued by the Federal Labour Ministry announcing the basic features of the new Bill. The government has therefore taken a further step towards carrying out the promise made in the government statement three years ago to take care of those citizens who need it.

There is a difference between the seriously impaired and the seriously handicapped — the blind, accident victims and persons seriously injured in times of war or during military service come into the seriously impaired category.

The seriously handicapped include persons whose incapacity to work has been caused by illness, congenital physical or mental damage or road accidents where there is no liability for compensation.

The occupational protection granted by the labour laws has only covered the seriously impaired up to now. The seriously handicapped are now to be covered by the terms of this welfare measure.

The basic protection is provided by an obligation incumbent on employers. Every employer in the private and public sector with more than fifteen working positions is obliged to occupy six per cent of these posts with seriously handicapped persons.

Every public and private employer will pay compensation amounting to one hundred Marks for every post for the seriously handicapped which is still vacant.

The law intends that every employer of more than fifteen persons make a contribution towards integratng the physically, mentally or psychologically handicapped into the working world and thus into society.

To achieve this, the employer is obliged to occupy the seriously handicapped person in such a way that he can make the fullest use of his abilities and knowledge as are as this is practical and also develop these further.

The seriously handicapped are also being given the same protection as the seriously impaired where dismissal is concerned — a minimum of four weeks' notice. All the seriously handicapped also receive an extra six days holiday a year.

If at least five seriously handicapped persons are employed on a permanent basis by a private or public concern, they have the right to appoint a delegate to represent their specific interests. The delegate will have the right to attend all sessions of the works council in an advisory capacity.

The Bill has taken into consideration a number of demands made by war victim associations. But it contains no plans to increase the additional amount of holidays from six to ten days for those seriously impaired and seriously handicapped persons over fifty, as proposed by the Association of War and Military Service Victims, the Handicapped and the Invalid.

The demand for a full old age pension to be paid to the seriously handicapped from the age of sixty onwards has also been ignored. But it must not be forgotten that the new law forms no more than a beginning of legislation protecting the handicapped in the labour sector.

Other opportunities have been provided by the State in the welfare aid law covering all categories of the handicapped and clearly defining their claims on the community.

These regulations had an effect on the expectations placed in the efficiency of Church treatment and care centres and prompted the Evangelical Church to draw up a priority programme for the work they have long been conducting among the physically, mentally and psychologically handicapped.

The programme has been in operation since the beginning of the year. By the end of 1974 new basic concepts should have been found for the work of Church organisations helping the handicapped.

Four million plus

The results of a competition arranged last year by the Minister of Labour also show the extent to which public awareness of the social obligation to integrate the handicapped into the community has increased. Walter Arendt received about ten thousand suggestions on how to improve the help given to the handicapped. Most of them were useful and practical.

Even the toy industry, supported by the Ministry of Health, has turned to the problem of the mentally and physically handicapped and designed therapeutic toys for adults to improve their dexterity or powers of observation.

More than four million handicapped persons live among us. One and a half million are men and women of working age who will never play any part in production because of their handicaps. The new law and the help being given by the whole of the community could help many of them become integrated into society. *Ingeborg Jahn*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 6 August 1972)

Preventive medicine scheme now extended

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

A change in the law now enables war casualties and people seriously injured during their period of military service to attend medical examinations conducted under the sickness prevention scheme introduced on 1 July 1971 and paid for by the State.

Special aid is now also available. People who can claim these benefits include the seriously handicapped (for themselves and certain members of their family), the recipients of a nursing allowance and widows, orphans and parents entitled to maintenance.

If these persons are covered by sickness insurance schemes, they obtain their medical examinations and their benefits from the insurance scheme and not from the State.

Women are covered by the scheme once they become thirty. They are allowed to attend a medical examination once a year to check that they do not have cancer.

Men over 45 can attend a medical examination once a year to enable early diagnosis of any cancerous growths and children up to the age of four are examined free of charge for diseases threatening their normal physical or mental development.

The special aid provides for medical care and obstetric aid, the supply of drugs, bandages and medications, lump sums of between fifty and one hundred Marks after birth, hospital nursing fees and a maternity allowance.

Those persons now entitled to aid because of the change in the law will normally be covered by their local pensions insurance scheme centre operating on behalf of the State. Special certificates will be issued to the persons so that they can obtain the free examinations from doctors.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 2 August 1972)

Accident research to boost safety in the home

Some eleven thousand fatal accidents occur in the home every year in the Federal Republic. Women fall from ladders when putting up curtains, men suffer electric shocks and children are scalded.

The official statistics are disheartening so all the more importance must be attached to the question of what is being done to trace the causes of these accidents and prevent them.

Helmut Rohde, Parliamentary State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, recently replied to a question on this subject in the Bundestag.

He stated that the new Federal Institute for Labour Protection and Accident Research had developed a statistical system to determine the number of accidents occurring in the home and during a person's leisure time.

This system is currently being tested by means of a representative survey. If it proves efficient, the system will be used throughout the country. Further accident prevention measures will be introduced on the basis of these research findings.

The law on technical equipment makes an important contribution towards preventing accidents in the home. The Labour Ministry has now drawn up 530 sets of safety standards and regulations for technical equipment, including household, sports and do-it-yourself equipment. These safety specifications should be followed by manufacturers.

Thirteen examination centres for technical equipment have now been recognised. The safety seals awarded by these centres enable consumers to judge the reliability of the goods as far as safety is concerned. An association was recently set up to standardise the safety seal system.

The accident insurance law covering students, schoolchildren and kindergarten children also represents an important step towards increasing safety in the non-industrial sector.

The organisers of the insurance scheme have extensive powers of accident prevention in this sector. They draw up regulations and specifications for schools and kindergartens and their officials visit all places of education to ensure that everything possible is being done in the interests of accident prevention.

The Ministry of Labour has also appointed a working party to coordinate all accident prevention schemes in the home and at schools. One of its tasks will be to establish contacts with the Standing Conference of Education Ministers.

Private organisations too are turning to safety in the home and during leisure time and have performed valuable work in informing the public. It can only be hoped that all these efforts prove successful.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 13 August 1972)

Continued from page 3

cent more support among the young than among the population as a whole.

CDU spokesman Weiskirch answered Liepelt by stating that in previous elections Infas had often forecast great things for the SPD. His analysis could be tackled on two counts: It is true that Brandt as Chancellor has a headstart over Barzel in the popularity stakes, but compared to previous Chancellors he was much less popular.

Furthermore Liepelt had, he said, given no indication as to how the voters consider the capabilities of the parties. Whereas the SPD was, before the 1969 elections, considered the equal of the CDU/CSU in the economic policy sphere today the CDU is thought to be streets ahead.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 14 August 1972)

■ ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Helmut Schmidt is now the Opposition's bogyman

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The change in Helmut Schmidt, at least looking from an Opposition's eye view, verges on the miraculous. Up till a short while ago even members of the CDU/CSU seemed to feel that the outward security of the country was in good hands with the Social Democrat Federal Defence Minister. And when the Opposition spoke of the inner desolation of the Social Democrat party they rather implied that Schmidt was the exception that proved the rule.

Apparently he was one of the few who was doing anything to prevent the general slide leftwards, even though the Opposition did not offer good odds in favour of his succeeding.

But now, from the Opposition benches again, we hear that Schmidt really has been swamped by the tide. They claim he did not even attempt to kick against the pricks. CDU member Albert Leicht says that he has accepted without a quibble the inflation for which the government must be blamed, and the disrespect of the constitution and law to which he also subscribes, bowing in deference to the leftist forces in his party that are becoming stronger all the time.

So this is Helmut Schmidt, the new Federal Economics and Finance Minister?

Judgments of this kind, even if they are uttered and written with tongue in cheek and a wink of the eye are too harsh, even with an election campaign coming up. They say nothing of the first few weeks Schmidt has spent in his new office. And there are already signs that Schmidt knows his duties and has indicated where he will place the emphases.

At the outset a piece of luck came along to help Helmut Schmidt for which his luckless predecessor, Karl Schiller, had waited in vain. American action to help the dollar put a check on the currency crisis and contributed towards frictionless currency talks between the Federal Republic and France. So Schmidt found fairly calm weather in an area that had been turbulent during the last months of the Schiller era. This made his first days in the new office considerably easier.

Following that Helmut Schmidt came out with some statements that were meaningful and quite open. He said there were prospects of higher taxation either next year or the year after at the latest. And he stated with remarkable directness that he could see, "absolutely no intellectual possibility of giving firm assurances that in the course of the next few months I will be able to bring the price rises down from 5.4 per cent to a lower level."

This was an appeal to the mature voter whom the SPD do not want to try to hoodwink in the election and pre-election battle.

Higher taxation, sooner rather than later, and the confession that lost stability could not be found again just round the corner – these were the lines along which Karl Schiller was working and close to those on which the Opposition was operating. In the meantime it has become a point from which all parties hope to score, telling the public they must pay more so that the State can carry out more public works.

But now Helmut Schmidt has gone a step further than Karl Schiller and introduced a new dimension into economic and finance policies, namely social welfare policy in the broadest sense. The Federal Economics and Finance Minister has drawn on experience gained from his previous political activities, among others from the work he carried out for his party on their draft plan for the policy of worker participation and on the so-called SPD long-term plan. This does indeed mean a change of course or at least a shift of emphases.

Recently Schmidt has come out with some statements that would never have been made by Schiller. For instance: "If we back up advanced education, research and new ideas we are giving ourselves a lead over our rivals in other countries. By extending the rights of employees at work and giving them a share of the growth in production yield we are providing for a progressive social welfare policy and a social climate in which partnership and non-violent handling of conflicts between employer and employee are given a better chance."

When one looks at the conditions leading to strikes in Britain for instance one cannot help but see the value of such ideas. They must not be tossed aside as just empty phrases.

We cannot yet see how basic ideas such as this will look when applied in practice to budgetary policy and finance planning. But Helmut Schmidt is all in favour of the State taking over greater responsibilities and he is prepared to make the public pay for these services. Karl Schiller did not shut his mind entirely to ideas of this nature, but he did tend to be on the more thrifty side when it came to public expenditure.

In other words when the shoe pinched Schiller's first reaction was to decrease government spending rather than increase revenue. In the case of Schmidt it seems far more likely that the greater flexibility will be on the revenue side. He will want to make sure that at all times he has the necessary cash for the expenditure he wishes to make.

This policy is likely to put great pressure on Schmidt as it does with all finance ministers. If he is still in office after the elections he will not only have to get to grips with finance planning and tax increases but also with fiscal reform.

Original ideas on how the government could find the money for additional public spending when fiscal reforms are made have long since been rendered obsolete by the realities.

Schmidt will have to fence his way through a good many of the conflicts that faced Schiller. On the one hand a spendthrift policy brings relief but on the other it causes additional problems. If Schmidt really meant what he said recently, that every job that is tough is good fun, then he should have pleasant times to look forward to!

Heinz Murmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 4 August 1972)

OECD considers Bonn price rises 'disappointing'

The new economic boom which is beginning to make itself felt in the Federal Republic must be kept under control right from the start so that no excessive pressure is put on production capacities with the inevitable inflation that would result from this, according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In the recently published OECD annual report the prognosis for the Federal Republic is an economic growth of two per cent in 1972 and 4.5 per cent in the first half of 1973, which figures are compatible with stability.

At the moment it is not entirely predictable what form the new boom will take. It is possible that one or two short-term factors are at work. For example lost productivity as a result of the strike of metalworkers last autumn has had to be made up and the mild winter meant that there was little interruption to building programmes.

There is still some uncertainty about the effects of the Mark revaluation as it affects foreign trade and private investment.

OECD experts are of the opinion that the floating and the most recent revaluation of the Mark will have gone a long way towards achieving stability. Furthermore Federal Republic companies are now making an effort to regain their profit margins, which have been lost as a result of the latest massive wage bill rise.

Thus, the OECD says, the new growth cycle is beginning at a time when price stability is not a too promising prospect. The middle-term aims of the Bonn government to cut back the annual increase in the level of prices over the economy as a whole to three per cent and consumer prices to between 2.5 and three per cent by 1976 are thus endangered.

The OECD also fears that the worldwide inflationary trend will only increase. One of the major dangers to stability over the middle term in the Federal Republic is the rapid increase in building costs. The main aim now must be to create steadiness in the process of growth in the Federal Republic, to cut out extremes in the development of wages and profits as far as possible and to protect the national economy against imported inflation by applications of the laws of stability and growth.

In the summary of their report the OECD experts call the expected rise in consumer prices in the Federal Republic in 1972 of five per cent disappointingly high. In the long run, too, it seems difficult to ensure a satisfactory degree of price stabilisation. Not only international pricing tendencies but also a considerable inflationary hangover are making this difficult, a hangover that we are still feeling in this country after the last major boom.

Another important task for the Federal Republic's economic policymakers to carry out in the next few years, according to the OECD, is to bring about an increase in public consumer spending and public investments without a further increase to the pressure on costs and prices.

Expenditure on education, on economics and research, on town and country planning and on environmental protection must be increased substantially. At the moment there is no telling how far these requirements can be satisfied and how far these requirements can be satisfied and how far they will require a restructuring of public expenditure.

Certainly there is a likelihood that the growth of private consumer spending will be slowed down and there will be an increase in savings, but the future state of public finances, which have been ailing for more than ten years, cannot be predicted.

International organisation requires that the Bonn government draw up a kind of middle-term inventory of investment requirements in the social welfare policy sphere in order to gauge the better the financial requirements for a qualitative improvement of general living conditions.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 4 August 1972)

Bonn aims to boost trade with East

In the next few weeks the government will be starting another East Bloc trade initiative with the aim of stepping up the exchange of goods between the Federal Republic and communist countries.

Talks will take place with Poland, Rumania and Hungary designed to lead to a new trade agreement. Bonn still has full sovereignty to carry on such talks, for it is not until the beginning of next year that the EEC assumes full powers for negotiating trade treaties for countries in the Common Market.

The round of talks opens on 14 August in Warsaw with discussion on new trade provisions with Poland. Bonn estimates that these talks could be brought to a successful conclusion by 25 August. Among the matters to be discussed is removal of the quantitative limits for imports of Polish goods into the Federal Republic. In the trade agreement of 15 October 1970 Bonn agreed that import barriers would be removed by the end of 1974 on all but a hard core of so-called "sensitive goods".

Already the Federal Republic takes ... per cent of all Polish exports to the EEC. Sixty per cent of all commercial goods have already been liberalised to such an extent that permission does not have to be sought.

In the first five months of this year the exchange of goods between the Federal Republic and Poland increased considerably to 833 million Marks, compared to 541 million in the corresponding period of 1971.

Cooperation gives rise to certain problems. Poland refuses communal investments within the framework of joint societies. But Warsaw does back communal trading firms with offices in the Federal Republic, which should also be given the potential to influence the productivity of Polish industrial concerns.

For Bonn it is important to find ways in which production in Poland can be controlled by firms in this country. Essential negotiations on a double-taxation agreement and another agreement on social assurance will commence in the near future.

In late August and early September renewed negotiations with Rumania will begin in Bonn. At the centre of these will be not only a projected new trade agreement but also the formation of a joint Federal Republic-Rumanian company to promote cooperation on projects in developing countries.

Trading in 1971 saw the Federal Republic with a balance of trade deficit against Rumania for the first time in eleven years. Our exports were worth 679 million Marks as against imports from Rumania worth 747 million. And again in the first five months of this year with total trading worth 667 million Marks the Federal Republic had a deficit of eleven million.

New trading provisions with Hungary will be discussed in October. But before August is out talks begin in Budapest on more effective cooperation between the Federal Republic and Hungary in developing countries.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 8 August 1972)

Lowest prices

According to EEC figures the Federal Republic is bottom of the table with regard to price increases in the Six. Taking the average level of retail prices in 1966 as 100 the cost of living this spring had risen to 119.9 points in the Federal Republic, but 131.7 in France, 135.9 in the Netherlands, 125.6 in Belgium, 122.5 in Italy and 120.9 in Luxembourg.

(Welt der Arbeit, 27 July 1972)

■ AGRICULTURE

Baron Constantin von Heereman, a profile of the farmers' leader

Among the locals he speaks a low German dialect. They call him "Herr Baron". He is affable, likes to talk and usually does so vividly with a stentorian voice. He has a natural wit. And he stands 6ft 7ins tall.

Even as child he was teased about his height and given an appropriate nickname. After his first major television appearance a call came for him. It was a lawyer from Schleiden in the Eifel district. "Well, Jobby," came the voice from the other end, "you of all people on the old box. Georgie here. Must say you made a cracking good show of it."

The voice at the other end spoke pure *Kölsch* (Cologne dialect) like "Georgie's father". For Georgie, who went to the same Jesuit school as the Baron, is the youngest of the Adenauers.

Constantin Bonifatius Hermann-Josef Antonius Maria, Baron Heereman von Zuydtwyck lives in the Bad Godesberg district of Bonn in the Andreas Hermes *Haus*, the headquarters of the Federal Republic Farmers Union. He is their President, succeeding Edmund Rehwinkel to the post in 1969.

Each week he is in residence for two or three days like a modern manager who always has to be in closest contact with those in the seats of power, right at the centre of action of the "Green Front".

The President of the Farmers Union represents the interests of 1,200,000 farmers. Twenty years ago people had little time for the men who worked the land. Anything they said went in one ear and like as not came out the other. Many of their complaints received little more recognition than a shrug of the shoulders.

But in the meantime many farmers have landed in the red and the profession as a whole has discovered that united it can stand, and in fact form no less a force than the trades unions.

These may not be startling facts, but Baron von Heereman states them with a dry directness that shows that the farmers will not let themselves be fobbed off.

"Never," he says, "has there been a time when agricultural questions have been so tied up with the general matters of economic and finance policies so closely as today. We are clear in our minds that the structural changes to agriculture will continue even when the development with regard to farm produce prices is more favourable."

He adds that the scope and pressures of the structural change are not predestined by the Fates. State policy will decide whether the change will be completed under socially acceptable conditions. The Baron knows only too well that there can be no guarantees for farmers as businessmen any more than there can in other professions, along the lines of the guarantees that can be made to civil servants.

The important point is how much liberty can be salvaged, how much room for manoeuvre, how much opportunity for the diligent and careful farmer.

The Farmers Union is politically neutral, but the Baron does make use of his personal rights as a citizen. He is Chairman of the local CDU and of the CDU party on the council in his home town of Riesenbeck in the borough of Tecklenburg.

He says that the Farmers Union pursues its aims without any party-political bias. It is not in vain that in recent times the Farmers Union has recognised the efforts of Federal Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl.

Constantin von Heereman was born on 17 December 1931 in Münster, Westphalia. His mother, a Baroness from Rhineland noble stock, died when Constantin was only four, leaving him and five brothers and sisters. His father, Theodor von Heereman, was an officer in the Wehrmacht, who rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel by the end of the War. He had the children adopted by their uncle Max Freiherr Heereman, who owned the family seat, Haus Surenburg in Westphalia.

The Heereman family does not come from a Valhalla of German history. But a great uncle, Clemens von Heereman, along with Ludwig Windthorst the founder of the Catholic Centre Party, after 1911 the Deutsche Zentrumspartei, was in the 1870s Vice-President of the Prussian provincial assembly. By marriage the family linked with another prominent noble family, that of Baron von und zu Guttenberg.

As the name suggests the Heereman von Zuydtwyck family come from nearby Holland. They were patricians in Zuydtwyck, near Rotterdam, driven from their home by the Protestant House of Orange in 1754. They moved to Gotha.

Surenburg has 1,500 acres of land. Some of it is farmland, rented out, and the rest rich forest land, mostly pines. The Heereman family has not conquered the world, but they did serve the crown in Münster in the dragoons. They were not so much in evidence in the cultural salons, but concentrated more on riding, military service, hunting and charitable work. The Church in Münster bore them very good will, but the Prussian crown bore them less.

At the age of 21 Constantin was in charge of a large concern. In 1953/54 he visited the Senior School of Agriculture in Soest and passed as an "agrarian engineer", a farmer with qualifications approved by the State. In 1955 he took over the administration of the agricultural concern Haus Surenburg and at the same time became head of the Heereman chief administration in Münster.

With experience he came to master these positions. He manages to do any number of things at one time and has a number of posts as chairman or president of organisations.

Constantin von Heereman has tough manly features that one expects to find in a gentleman farmer and in the group of European farmers' leaders he is one of the most popular alongside his French colleague. The two gentlemen are the best of friends and in agreement on many aspects of EEC business.

Walter Henkels

(Photo: dpa)

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 22 July 1972)

Women workers keep farms going

Participation of women workers in the Federal Republic's agricultural sector has become an absolute necessity. About 1,300,000 female members of farming families, including 796,000 farmers' wives, work on the land fully or part-time. A further 96,000 female farm workers are not members of the farming family.

The "family farm" has in four out of five cases become a man-and-wife concern. In 1970 one farm in ten was owned by a woman, which means that there are 100,000 farms where the boss wears skirts, including poultry farms and market gardens. In farming more women work beyond the age of sixty than in any other profession.

These figures were published by the government in its report on women at work. The report shows that for women working on the land the questions of professional training and social security take on a different aspect than for others.

Most women who work on farms had only a *Volksschule* (elementary school) education. If they want to find other employment they run up against difficulties because of their lack of training. Employment as an unskilled or semi-skilled worker would not be satisfactory over a long period. According to the report it is important to provide for such women programmes of training that cover a broad sweep.

But the women who remain on the land must be given assistance, too. They need advice and support in all aspects of running a farm, such as budgeting and managing the labour force.

The centres for household budgeting training at agricultural schools developed into places of further education by the mid-sixties. Seminars of the "Agrarsoziale Gesellschaft" are financed by the State.

Several Federal states run schemes at agricultural and technical colleges to teach management of farms. Teachers and advisers in this service must have completed an academic education with a two-year apprenticeship.

The two-year vocational training for household management advisers was recently subjected to new regulations. Work is still in progress on a further educational system for rural auxiliary women.

In future when schools for elementary education are built special attention will be given to the rural areas where the structure is weak. The "holiday on a farm" scheme has given women who work on farms new responsibilities and advice and schooling in rational methods of operation is essential. In this, labour exchanges are helping out.

Kurt Dürpisch

(Kieler Nachrichten, 3 August 1972)

Farming subsidies cost wage-earners 700 Marks a year

The steep increase in expenditure to support agriculture in the European Economic Community threatens the EEC to a high degree. The Federal Republic alone has to bear a burden of sixteen milliard Marks of EEC costs each year via high taxation and inflated food prices, according to a thousand-page report drawn up by a committee of experts and published recently in Bonn by the Consumer Associations Study Group (AGV).

According to the experts' report public expenditure for the Community in 1969 reached approximately 25 milliard Marks and the cost of protective measures by agriculture, such as excessively high prices for farm produce produced a further thirty milliard Marks.

After deduction of EEC revenue from import skim-offs the total burden of expenditure in 1969 was about 48 milliard Marks and since then it has certainly increased.

Judging by the calculations made in this report the price of agricultural produce could be about eight per cent lower "if the advantages of the greater bargains to be found on world markets were used to the full". As far as the Federal Republic is concerned the annual cost of the EEC to every wage-earner for subventions and protective measures is approximately 700 Marks.

The experts also allege that the present system of subventions not only puts an unfair burden on those in lower wage brackets but also enlarges the income gaps within agriculture, since pricing support is of greater benefit to the larger concerns.

Supporting the Mansholt Plan for the gradual whittling away of superfluous agricultural concerns in the EEC the group of experts demands in its report: The prices for surplus agricultural produce should be cut step by step but drastically. These should be replaced by adjustment subventions calculated on the basis of average yield.

In this manner smallholders with a low income would be given better and more effective aid than was the case in the past. In addition this procedure "would only cost a fraction of the present system". Despite the lower cost it would be a more just system both for the farmer and the consumer.

Moreover this new procedure would make the EEC more competitive on international markets. Experts fear that – if the system of the EEC agricultural market is not altered – the whole EEC setup will founder on the ever-increasing cost of maintaining the principle of subsidies and protection, since the budgets of member countries will not be able to stand the strain of this burden that is being placed on them.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 July 1972)

■ ENVIRONMENT

Emergency phone service for pollution complaints

Some three months ago the Nature Conservation Association in Munich and Bonn set up an emergency telephone service for environmental complaints. So far there have been about 6,000 calls, members of the general public venting their feelings and asking for assistance in connection with atmospheric pollution, intolerable noise and open refuse tips.

The appropriate authorities have been approached in every case, the Association comments, adding that the problems arising cannot, however, be solved without the active assistance of the general public as a whole.

Civic initiative has been gratifyingly evident on the environmental front, one scheme materialising after another and many having the required effect. What is still needed, though, is awareness on the part of all and sundry of the extent to which the environment is threatened by carelessness and negligence.

Most users of the emergency service ring up in exasperation at having got nowhere with their complaints to the authorities. The authorities often do cock a deaf ear.

A woman from Herrenalb rang the emergency number because of a loudspeaker attached to her home by the local authority that relayed civic concerts at a deafening noise level. She claimed that complaints to the police and the local council had been to no avail. The Nature Conservation Association has taken up the case with the burgomaster's office.

A Metzingen man complained that a nearby smithy made an intolerable racket between half past four and half past nine in the morning. A Freiburg caller claimed that corporation buses were polluting the environment.

Traffic on the B 39 trunk road near Neustadt in the Black Forest is hampered, it has been alleged, by smoke from a refuse tip. A caller from Reichenbach asked what he could do about the powerful smell of a refuse tip to the East of his town that frequently smouldered. Complaints about a refuse tip have also come in from Tübingen.

In Horb a car abandoned by the roadside is claimed to be in a state of decay. Callers from Leonberg have protested against the proposed extension of the autobahn to Lake Constance because the noise and smell at their autobahn junction are already intolerable.

A woman from Großsachsenheim requested assistance after the failure of her complaint to the Federal Aviation Authority about the noise made by Bundeswehr aircraft.

These are only a few examples from among the roughly 1,000 phone calls so far received in Bonn from Baden-Württemberg. The aim of the Nature Conservation Association, a private body, is to set up an emergency telephone service of this kind in every state capital.

Relying so far on the membership dues of 100 affiliated associations with a total of 2.2 million members the Association has applied to the Minister of the Interior for a 1.2-million-Mark grant for this service. Whether the government will oblige, and if so when, is another matter altogether.

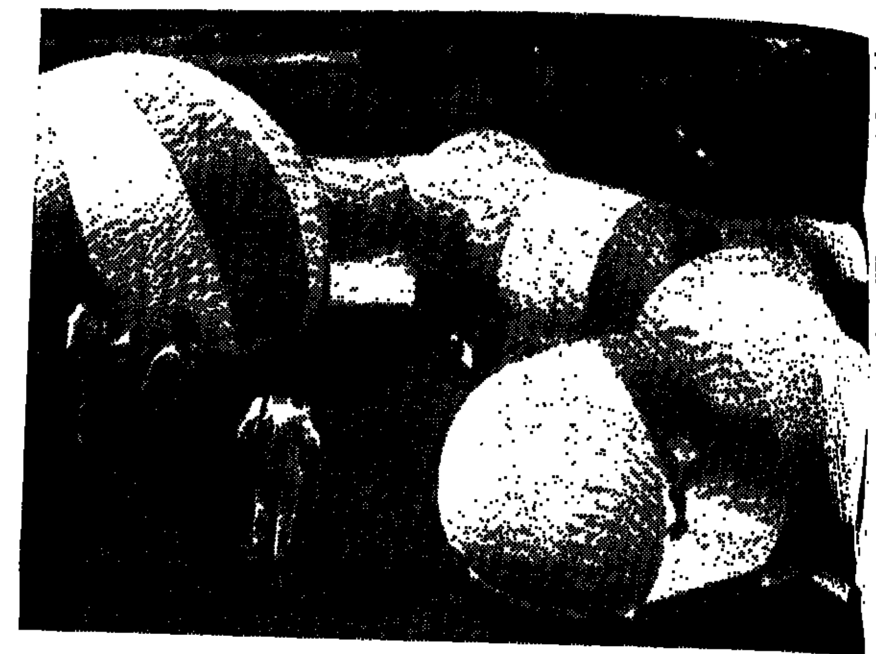
Users of the environmental emergency service can at present call numbers in Munich or Bonn. Their complaints are tape-recorded.

Callers are requested to state their names and addresses in case further details are needed. Discretion is assured if required. But anonymous callers' complaints are also followed up and complaints can, of course, be submitted in writing.

The telephone service was set up because many people are at a loss what to do when it is a matter of dealing with the authorities and individuals often feel there is nothing they themselves can do about the destruction of the environment.

Yet nearly all offences against environmental protection regulations can be followed up by the authorities even though, as a spokesman for the Association claims, many public prosecutors are not sufficiently clued up. Proceedings are

Continued on page 9



Inflatable kindergarten in Ulm

Gernot Minke of Ulm environmental planning institute was outraged that the city council was prepared to spend 100,000 Marks on a permanent kindergarten but nothing at all on a makeshift arrangement. So he simply erected this inflatable structure built at a cost of 7,000 Marks by his institute and left the rest to the children, who marched in and threw their weight around. A fortnight later the sausage-shaped building was still intact. If it only lasts a year it will have been well worthwile, Minke, 35 and a father himself, maintains. (Photo: Die Welt)



■ MOTORING

Medical and psychological tests for elderly drivers

Eduard Schmitz, let us call him, was a sprightly 75-year-old who felt he was as good a driver as ever he had been. He walked into the office of the psychologist at the Mülheim, Essen, branch of the Technical Supervision Association (TÜV), the independent body responsible for conducting statutory two-year roadworthiness tests on motor vehicles, on his hands to demonstrate how fit he was. Yet he was nonetheless rated unfit to hold a driving licence. Schmitz was one of 150 elderly licence-holders or applicants who had to undergo a medical and psychological test last year. Some of them had come to the police's attention while at the wheel of their cars, others were over-sixties who were taking the driving test for the first time.

By order of the Ministry of Transport driving licence applicants over the age of sixty must now provide proof that they have a clean bill of health. Many of them are sent by the medical officer responsible to the TÜV for an additional psychological test.

TÜV staff have long since ceased worrying about the strange antics of their customers. The clientele do not as a rule come of their own free will anyway. Two-year roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles are statutory and psychological tests to determine whether or not someone is fit to drive are prescribed by the courts or by officialdom in one way or another.

But Eduard Schmitz's acrobatics to demonstrate that a youthful 75-year-old was well able to drive a motor vehicle was a new one for the Mülheim staff.

Dr Wolfgang Böcher, head of the Rhineland TÜV's medical and psychological centre, was not particularly impressed for all that.

Schmitz wanted to impress upon Böcher and his secretaries (with whom he mooted the possibility of an assignation after hours) what sporting prowess he could still achieve.

Böcher was quite prepared to believe Schmitz on this score but wondered whether a client who entered his office on his hands might not have a little difficulty in operating car pedals with his feet as and when required.

Schmitz had come to the attention of the police because he was driving in an unorthodox manner. The police patrol had ordered him to report for a medical as a result. The outcome was a thumbs-down for the sprightly 75-year-old handstander. He forfeited his driving-licence.

There is as yet no regulation making tests of this kind compulsory for licence-holders over a certain age but something of the kind has been debated for some time. Böcher feels it is an urgent necessity. He would like to see drivers tested at intervals from the age of 55 onwards.

"In a large-scale survey," he says, "it was revealed that the faculties of a 45-year-old are only half those of a 25-year-old as far as driving skills are concerned."

Surveys are also claimed to have revealed that there are certain categories of mistakes that are characteristic of older drivers. They tend to disregard right of way, lose their sense of direction, misuse the road at their disposal, drive too close to parking vehicles, drive on the wrong side of the road, make mistakes when turning to left or right and crossing road junctions, do not stop in time for pedestrians, are unsure of themselves in towns they do not know, find it difficult to adjust to driving conditions to which they are not accustomed and suddenly decline in fitness to drive as a result of attacks of dizziness or sickness.

Few older drivers come to the TÜV of their own free will. Most are sent by the courts when the cause of an accident is uncertain or by the police when a patrol car has caught them napping.

In 1971 150 drivers were subjected to medical and psychological tests by the Rhineland TÜV, which covers a region including Düsseldorf, Mönchengladbach, Wuppertal, Aachen, Cologne, Bonn, Koblenz, Trier and Mainz. The year before there were 298 tests, the year before that 558.

The number of people aged sixty who apply for a driving licence for the first time is small. In 1958 157,000 applications were submitted. Only 0.5 per cent were over sixty and six per cent aged between 49 and sixty.

They were required to take a medical and psychological test beforehand during the fifties. The latest regulation specifies merely that the tests are no longer to be conducted by TÜV doctors but by local authority medical officers of health.

Wolfgang Böcher, a doctor and psychologist by profession, comments that "This new regulation does not relieve the burden on us. Most medical officers send applicants to us for an additional psychological check-up."

What is tested? – Powers of concentration and reaction, the extent to which older drivers are capable of self-criticism, whether they are too stubborn to adapt to changing circumstances and whether they are capable of correctly assessing and responding to new situations.

"At times," Böcher says, "an elderly man will fight to retain his driving licence because it keeps him independent of the family and enables him to demonstrate that he can still hold his own."

Well aware as he is of the shortcomings of older drivers, Böcher nonetheless warns against condemning them out of hand. Each and every case merits individual consideration. What counts is not a person's age but his circumstances.

People who are still very much in the swim in normal life and keep their eyes and ears open to innovations will find it easier to cope with new situations in road traffic. Another important factor is whether or not they have been driving regularly for any length of time.

Elderly drivers are not alone in being considered by the TÜV to be not necessarily fit to drive as a general rule. Youngsters with only a year or two's experience are also a frequent cause of accidents.

Even so, psychologist Böcher feels, these youngsters will still be good drivers at the age of sixty because now at age eighteen, they have learnt by bitter experience how to cope with the demands today's traffic makes on motorists.

Ute Kaltwasser

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 August 1972)

Continued from page 8

often dismissed as lacking in public interest.

Twenty-eight per cent of calls so far have been in connection with atmospheric pollution and unpleasant smells, nineteen per cent have been noise complaints, thirteen per cent dealt with dirt and refuse, including the danger of rats, twelve per cent have related to water pollution and four per cent to slum clearance.

The remainder have, for instance, included the suggestion that motorists whose vehicles are stationary for longer than thirty seconds might switch off their engines.

Fourteen per cent of the complaints submitted have not been dealt with because not enough details were provided. It has mainly been a case of callers failing to be specific about the locality.

Werner Bollmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 August 1972)

New-look Volkswagens run off the Wolfsburg assembly line (Photo: dpa)

Volkswagen introduce improved range of 412 family saloons

Volkswagen's family saloons are now marketed as the 412 E and 412 LE in two- and four-door versions and the Variant estate car model. The Volkswagen 411 has thus become the 412 and there is no mistaking the change.

The front section of the car looks decidedly different. The bonnet slopes down to the level of the headlamps and the 412's waistline. The brow is swung less extravagantly and in a more sporting fashion. The twin headlights boast iodine lamps.

In order to make the 412 more uniform in appearance and to improve visibility in traffic the front flashing direction indicators have been "lifted" to the level of the headlights, where, of course, they are already housed at the rear.

The angle at which the doors come to rest in the two-door version has been increased to 56 degrees, making getting in and out easier and corresponding to the four-door version.

The armrests at the side no longer have countersunk grips, they have holes through which a hand can be thrust from above or below.

In order to preclude the possibility of chromium parts blinding the driver all metallic surfaces within the driver's field of vision have been coated in matt black – the wiper arms, washer jets and rings round the dials on the instrument panel, for instance.

Instead of pockets in the doors the 412 now boats ample compartments in which driver and co-driver can pack everything they could conceivably need during the journey.

The seats in the VW 412 E are excellent. Bucket seats and armrests keep driver and passengers firmly in place even on sharp bends. The front seats can be adjusted heightwise, catering for all shapes and sizes.

Heating and ventilation are easily adjusted. The heating, equipped with a thermostat, keeps on running even when the engine is switched off and continues to supply heat too.

In one version there is even a preselector button allowing the heating to be switched on automatically at any time during the following 24 hours. The driver can thus get up the morning knowing that his heater has been running for the past half hour, say, and that the car interior is warm and the windscreen and rear windows free from ice and mist.

The air-cooled four-cylinder four-stroke engine mounted in the rear retains electronic fuel injection, the only changes having been in respect of clean air regulations.

It develops eighthy DIN horse power at 4,900 rpm. The exhaust, which in the past has proved particularly susceptible to corrosion caused by salted roads, has now been nickel-plated to boost corrosion-resistance.

Comfort has been further improved. Suspension elements and shock absorbers

Bremer Nachrichten

now largely eliminate tendencies to rock and the reserve suspension largely absorbs the impact of badly pitted roads. The 412 has 155 SR 15-inch steel radial tyres.

Good brakes have always been a Volkswagen strong point. The VW 412 E boasts a twin-circuit braking system, drums at the rear and discs in front. The disc linings have been increased in thickness from ten to fourteen millimetres.

The brakes pull their weight even when the car is fully laden as for the summer holidays.

All versions of the 412 E are available with either manual or automatic gear change. The synchronisation of the manually operated gearbox has been improved to ensure even longer life.

A de luxe version and a whole range of optional extras are available to cater for every requirement. When the roof is slid open a windshield panel automatically emerges to break the flow of air into the rear of the car.

A bad weather package is also available and consists of every conceivable extra that could be of assistance to the driver at night or in hail, rain, snow and fog.

The Variant estate car version differs little from the saloons. The rear lighting has stayed where it used to be, however, in order not to impair the functioning of the rear door and the estate car is fitted with wider, 165 radial-ply tyres.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 5 August 1972)

■ PROFILE

Author Hermann Hesse died ten years ago

VORWÄRTS

Hermann Hesse, a Swabian by birth, died in Montagnola, Switzerland, on 9 August 1962 at the age of 85. He had become a Swiss citizen almost forty years previously. Even during the First World War he had lived outside Germany.

He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1946 – most of his works had been written by then – but he did not attend the presentation as he did not want to wear a dress coat.

The Federal Republic awarded him its *Pour le Mérite* in 1954 and the book trade awarded him its Peace Prize the following year. But he is not a best-selling writer in this country.

The situation is different abroad. Six million books of his were sold in the United States within a few years and another four million have been bought in Japan. The news that his *Narziss und Goldmund* currently tops fiction sales in the German Democratic Republic also gives food for thought.

Hesse's works range from *Peter Camenzind* (1904) and *Unterm Rad* (1905) to *Glass Bead Game* (1943). Walter Benjamin once stated that Hesse steered a middle course between the contemplation of a mysticist and the acuteness of an American.

This sums up Hesse's attitude towards politics and current affairs. Contemplation denotes keeping one's distance from the outside world and acuteness is demanded to prevent oneself falling victim to illusion.

Hesse, who lived as a recluse in Montagnola, kept his distance by never commenting about current affairs. He never joined a political party and could therefore be described as non-political.

But as he stood back from events, he was able to recognise the main trends of the time. His statements on the political scenery of two world wars and two post-war periods show that he was blessed with the insight that was not given to the alarming majority of his contemporaries in Germany.

Siegfried Unseld has published a selection of these short texts, mainly letters, in *Hermann Hesse, Politische Betrachtung* (Hermann Hesse, Political Observations) issued by Suhrkamp, Frankfurt, in 1970.

He cannot be labelled a pacifist, a humanist, a cosmopolitan or a Socialist though there is some truth in each of these claims. Whatever Hermann Hesse was, he remained a notorious lone wolf in his own peculiar way.

His relationship to Germany and the Germans was that of an unhappy lover. Nationalism, particularly German nationalism but not German nationalism alone, alienated him as early as the First World War during which he became acquainted with the dogmatic pacificism of Frenchman Romain Rolland.

Speaking to former compatriots in 1949, he described himself as a foreigner. He did not want to comment about whether his thoughts and actions were German or not.

But he had examined the question of what was specifically German. Germans had already deviated from this norm during the Wilhelminian period, he once claimed reproachfully.

"You were unfaithful, unfaithful to yourselves, and it is that alone that has brought you the hate of the world," he wrote. "With the help of your Kaiser and with the help of Richard Wagner you turned your German virtues into something operatic that nobody in the world took seriously apart from you yourselves. Behind the fine lies of this operatic splendour you let all your dark, all your slavish and all your megalomaniac instincts flourish and proliferate."

When the war ended in 1918 Germany failed to organise its own revolution and find its own form, he wrote. The past was then deliberately forgotten. "A portion of history, namely the war and its political causes, was extinguished from the memory of the people by means of primitive magic," he wrote in 1933.

Nobody wanted to know about "their immense share of the guilt for the war and the state of Europe today" (1932). The cause of all evil is attributed to others – the French, the Communists, the Jews.

But what were his views about the State, the first German republic? "I am not mistrustful towards the present State because it is new and republican but because it is too little of each for my liking," he wrote in 1931.

He was not surprised by the Nazi takeover in 1933 and he recognised immediately where it would all lead. "It will cost blood and the like," he wrote in July 1933. "There's evil in the air."

He did not regard 1945 as a decisive turning-point. As far as Germany was concerned, he did not believe that the "layer of compost" was enough to form the basis of a new republic.

He wrote in 1950 that the two international fronts formed as a result of the Cold War that had just begun were equally alien to him. "They are both militant, both intolerant, both basically unimaginative and therefore uncreative."

Because of this he did not want to be loyal to any one flag. Socialism was only a starting-point in his eyes. "The path leads on from there," he claimed. Though Socialism is the "only decent conviction", that does not mean that a person has to like Marxism and its "scant rationality". "Marx wants to change the world, I want to change the individual," he wrote on another occasion.

It was not a case of party programmes or verbal avowals but of what a person represented. "I only take people seriously as individuals, as persons," he wrote. He never tired of repeating his belief in the individual. Egocentricity he expressly praised as the rare attitude of a person interested in what his ego actually involved.

He rejected inclusion in collectives though this did not stop him from feeling part of an "anonymous fraternity". The members of this invisible circle – who do not know each other – do not look upon power, wealth, the nation and external glory as their guiding lights. In the view of these silent men the world is ailing because of a lack of love, humanity and fraternity.

Hesse's basic attitude is anti-bourgeois and is reminiscent to this extent of the youth movement of his times. Among his more recent readers are the American hippies, the flower people, who yearn for an age of love, joy and peace. They also agree with Hesse, an admirer of Gandhi, that they want no violence.

Does Hesse turn away from the world



(Photo: dpa)

in the sense of the oriental mystics he tried to fathom? Taking the odd element out of context does not do him justice. He cannot be fitted into neat categories such as Enlightenment, Romanticism, Rationalism or Irrationalism.

His origins in Swabian Romanticism have been emphasised by critics – indeed, the barren rule of reason, as he called it, was always abhorrent to him. But he did not apprive of every aspect of irrationalism.

He demonstrated unparalleled trenchancy in attacking the most evil form of irrationalism every to have occured – the worship of power originating from a degenerated neo-Romanticism with all its implications from the age of Kaiser Wilhelm down to that of Hitler. He was condemned to hover between many antitheses, he once complained.

Ernst Maste

(Vorwärts, 3 August 1972)



Letters reveal Kant the man, not just the philosopher

Loneliness was the result of his greatness. Deadly earnest and a strict view of life became dominant factors during the last years in the life of philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724–1804).

He achieved worldwide historical importance with his critical philosophy. He was able to complete his philosophical work – a task in itself – and attend to his many academic calls, especially helping students in difficulties, because of his sense of duty and organisation.

Kant was born in Königsberg as the son of a saddler and was typically Prussian in his habits. He gradually worked his way up to professor at the local university. By this time he was 46.

Kant spent nine years as a tutor to the children of the East Prussian and Baltic nobility, so that he was able to move self-confidently in *ancien régime* circles.

Königsberg, at that time a German cultural centre whose influence reached via Tilsit and Memel to Riga, Dorpat, Reval and even to Petersburg and Moscow, put its stamp on the social life of Kant.

He placed great store on conviviality and banqueting. As a professor, he had guests almost every day. Often he invited poor students, a special concern of his. He was once asked in mirth when he was going to write a critique of culinary art.

Göttingen University took over the traditions of the four-hundred-year-old University of Königsberg after 1945 and also became the home of the Kant Society. Thanks to Göttingen, we can now learn more about Kant as a man. Kurt Stavenhagen has spoken a lot about Kant and Königsberg and these ideas have now been published in extended form by a Göttingen concern.

Jürgen Zehbe has also helped enrich our picture of the great philosopher by publishing his letters. About three hundred of his letters are known to us at present. When his estate was auctioned everyone wanted to buy his hat, despite his scorn for the worship of relics, but his letters and fragments were neglected.

Eighty years after his death, as neo-Kantianism began to replace materialism, Kant's letters to Fürstenau were sold to a paper mill and mashed to pulp. This increases the impotance of the remaining letters which Zehbe has edited and annotated, as well as supplying an introduction.

Despite all his strict scientific work and his intellectual standing, we find that Kant was a friendly and polite man whose helpfulness could still serve as a model today.

Whoever he was writing to, Kant adopted an objective and self-confident style that never becomes overbearing but remains kindly and charming. It made no difference whether he was writing to Frederick the Great, Frederick William II of Prussia or Empress Elizabeth of Russia, whose troops occupied Königsberg for five years during the Seven Years War, or to the young Fichte, mathematician Johann Schultz, his early interpreter Carl Leonhard Reinhold in Jena or to his pupil and friend Magnus Herz, the doctor and philosopher.

Kant always realised that his critical philosophy could suddenly lead a person into unaccustomed territory and prompt a complete change in his way of thinking. He was insulted by the fact that his *Critique of Pure Reason* published in 1781 remained almost unnoticed and was not understood by anyone so that he had to write his *Prolegomena* two years later by way of explanation.

Eleven years later, after his *Critique of Practical Reason* and *Critique of Judgment*, he wrote in a state of fatigue: "I am beginning to see that I do not even understand myself adequately."

Kant was an abstract thinker matched by few other philosophers. A reader would therefore think it almost impossible that Kant could have written what he did to the young philosopher Beck in Halle in 1971: "I am convinced partly by my own experience and partly by the example of the greatest mathematicians that mathematics alone cannot fill the soul of a thinking person and that there must be something else, be it only poetry, to refresh the intellect and give it alternative nourishment . . ."

The reader will be no less surprised by two letters Kant wrote to women. In the first one, written at the age of forty, he states that he believes both in rationalism and Swedenborg's mysticism which he later rejected as nonsense.

The draft of a letter written to Maria von Herbert in 1792 is of particular interest. Kant, then seventy, wrote: "For love, be it for a husband or friend, depends on mutual respect without which it is only a very changeable sensual deception." Such a love will communicate itself totally and not want to be weakened by distrustful reserve.

His many ideas about love and friendship prove that Kant was a genius. He was a bachelor, not because of any strong principles but because he had to devote all his time to earning a living before he eventually found a secure post as junior librarian at the age of 42.

The reader will be moved by a letter Kant wrote to Christian Garve on 21 September 1798. Kant states that a "Tantalian pain" has befallen him because, though physically well, he no longer feels fit for mental work and can no longer attend to philosophy. Equally moving is his lament that old friends are passing away, leaving him behind in his increasing loneliness.

Bruno Lenz

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 August 1972)

■ ART

Aachen show recalls Carolingian and Imperial splendour

DIE WELT

Today's art lovers are not half so black as they are painted. In Cologne for example the exhibition "Rhein und Maas" is breaking all records. And this is not just any old art offering, nor some highly entertaining lowbrow show, but a very demanding exhibition in which the art and culture of a bygone epoch are on show.

The organisers of the exhibition themselves are supposed to be faced with a problem. Why? Presumably because the general chatter of contemporary artistic circles says that this sort of thing is not possible and should not be allowed.

The mod attitude to ancient art is very like the mod attitude to Classical drama. But the art-loving public cannot be fobbed off and when ancient art is served up in a serious manner the public turns out in force.

Obviously large sectors of the public feel genuine and deep ties to the power and greatness of ancient art and to their cultural heritage. Obviously the "continuity of spiritual reminiscences" that Jacob Burckhardt spoke of still persists and the destructive zeal of doctrinaire moderns cannot destroy it.

In Cologne at any rate the Rhine-Maas exhibition was a sell-out and had to be extended and those who were not able to see it there before 6 August could plan a *trip to Brussels* in September or October to see it in the Belgian capital.

Fortunately the exhibition has remained within striking distance of Aachen. For in Aachen this summer an exhibition is taking place that is so to speak complementary to *Rhein und Maas*. In the Coronation Hall at the town hall the Aachen (Aix la Chapelle) Cathedral treasure is on show – without doubt the most important Church treasures this side of the Alps.

Not only is Aachen thereby tagging on to the Cologne exhibition, dedicated to the life and work of Charlemagne, but is also making an express reference to the parallel event in Cologne and Brussels.

It is the particular intent of the Aachen exhibition "not only to show outstanding works of art, but also to throw light on the cultural background, namely that of the Middle Ages dominated by Christianity from which the individual works in the great centres around the Rhine, Maas and Mosel came into being".

It succeeds in this admirably. It has about two hundred items on show, which makes it far less enterprising than the Cologne exhibition but in the spacious historic Coronation Hall it is far easier to view the items at leisure and the exhibition seems if anything to gain from its surroundings from the point of view of atmosphere as compared with the crammed Cologne exhibition.

In Aachen every individual exhibit comes to life to a far greater extent. The invaluable Charlemagne Shrine for example, which Friedrich Barbarossa donated at the canonization of Charlemagne, and the no less important Shrine to Mary (both dating from the early thirteenth century). Both bear important witness to their time and place of origin. At the Rhine-Maas exhibition they would form a much admired group along with other shrines.

But in Aachen they are able to develop their full effect and all their glory, their great richness of form and imagination and in several details they show their quality and significance clearly.

When we see the image of Charlemagne on his shrine – with the features of Barbarossa! – in proud majestic pose between the slightly stooping Pope and the Archbishop of Rheims there can be no doubt about the balance of power and the claims to power in those days.

Those were the days when the Occident was coming into its own. In Aachen, too, the emphasis is on the centuries between Charlemagne and Charles IV, whose coronation gift, a bust of Charlemagne, is among the most outstanding exhibits.

In the main the exhibitions in Cologne and Aachen have similar exhibits on show, taking in the Rhine, Maas and Mosel area in which Charles' imperial residence was for a time the spiritual, political and artistic centrepoint.

Gold work, ivory engraving and miniatures were the artistic expressions that most closely bound the normal lives of the clerics and noblemen, the only patrons of art in those days.

Apart from the shrines, relics, crosses and later paintings and sculptures there are of course works of Church art, liturgical objects and the like. Naturally these things are more a matter of course in Aachen than at the Rhine-Maas exhibition. The Aachen exhibition also starts at an earlier period of time with the Roman Prosperina Sarcophagus from the second century AD, which Charles had transported from Italy to Aachen as, according to the legend, his last resting place, and ends at a later point with comparatively less important works from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Also on show are some treasures that are normally kept in the Cathedral and are not on show to the public. Furthermore the exhibition is attempting to reconstruct the original treasure of the Cathedral with copies and photographic documentations of objects that have been lost to the collection over the centuries.

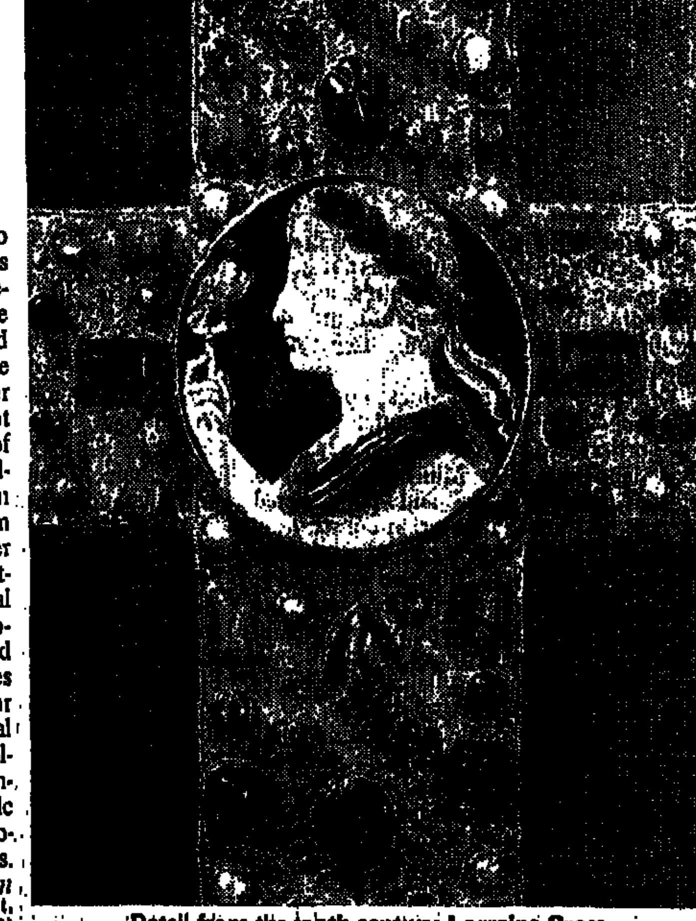
Thus we can see the legendary sabre of Charlemagne which legend has described as being presented to the great Holy Roman Emperor by Harun al Rashid but has been disputed as "Attila's Sabre", the original today being in Vienna.

And the Emperor's famous hunting horn could not be left out, nor his hunting knife, which is presumably an Anglo-Saxon or Scandinavian work from the ninth century. Also from the era of Charlemagne, from his Aachen Palace School, we can see a hagiography with "late antique" pictures of the evangelists, a glowing example of the so-called Carolingian Renaissance. From this developments can be followed through continuously through the *ottonisch* (after Emperor Otto I, tenth and eleventh century) and *staufisch* (Hohenstaufen family) periods – with some magnificent silk materials, probably from the dowry of Empress Theophano and the unique Lorraine cross – through the Gothic period to the era of Charles IV up to the beginnings of the modern era and Baroque. And here we reach another artistic highspot with the work of the eminent goldsmith Hans von Reutlingen from Aachen. Thereafter Aachen loses its glitter as the Imperial city where the coronations were held and with this it loses much of the glamour from its Cathedral treasures. What follow are neo-Romantic and neo-Gothic copies or conglomerations of styles.

Eo Plunien

(Die Welt, 1 August 1972)

Ninth-century gospels attributed to the court of Charlemagne



Detail from the tenth-century Lorraine Cross

(Photos: Katalog)

Munich drama group plans ambitious world tour

They are playing in such exotic places as Surabaja, Christchurch, Taipeh, Kyoto and Nagoya. They are travelling on an official Federal Republic cultural mission through the universities and colleges of the United States, doing guest appearances in Canada and will close their fourth world tourney on behalf of the Federal Republic theatre with a two-week guest appearance on Broadway. This is the ambitious programme embarked upon by the *Brücke* ensemble from Munich, founded by Dieter Brammer and Joost Siedhoff. The tour ends on 18 December.

The programme contains two Classical-Progressive works: *Woyzeck* by Georg Büchner and *Der Frieden* by Aristophanes in the Peter Hacks' version.

"Both are socially and humanistically involved plays played mainly in countries that are in some form or other involved in a state of war," said Brammer, explaining his group's involvement.

Two directors have been signed up: Günther Fleckenstein, theatre manager from Göttingen, a specialist on Hacks' work and Bonn's general dramatic adviser Hans Joachim Heyse, who produced *Woyzeck*.

This fourth world tour of *Die Brücke* is appearing in eleven countries and 51 towns, concentrating on the one hand on the Far East and also on the American continent. The group will be travelling 70,000 kilometres by plane and bus, carrying 600 kilograms of props and playing 81 performances, 47 of them *Woyzeck*. The Goethe Institute is helping to finance the tour to the tune of 650,000 Marks and is expecting packed houses.

In Asia where *Die Brücke* (the name means "the bridge") appeared ten years ago, but was not afforded such comfort, the Goethe Institute has noted a great interest in the German theatre recently. German is on the curriculum at schools in Indonesia, Korea and Japan. In the United States, where the tour is being partly supported by the Gert von Gontard Foundation, the ensemble will in the main be visiting universities which have been preparing themselves a long time in advance for the performances with intensive studies of the plays. In these universities there are a number of theatre workshops. After their performances the company will be discussing the plays with their audience.

In New York, where drama producer Gert von Gontard is supporting the performance on his own, the proportion of young people in audiences for German plays has increased substantially.

Von Gontard said: "The number of old émigrés has been declining and young businessmen and students now make up about half of audiences."

Rolf Henkel

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 8 August 1972)

■ EDUCATION

Bavaria introduces ethics lessons as an alternative to religious instruction



Ethics is to be introduced as a new school subject in Bavaria as a result of increasing reports that pupils are not attending religious instruction and thus gaining an extra two hours free time a week.

One pupil in four does not attend religious instruction in Munich and the proportion is no lower in rural areas. The Bavarian Education Ministry has noted this with displeasure and remembered Article 137 of the Bavarian constitution that makes attendance of religious instruction voluntary but also demands as an alternative "instruction in the generally recognised principles of morality". The State Institute of Education has now drawn up a syllabus for ethics classes.

The ministry does not intend that Bavarian schoolchildren should learn a list of virtues by heart. Instead pupils should be encouraged to think about important ethical problems and "acquire the ability of moral self-establishment in social responsibility".

There is not important material to swot. Instead pupils will be led to adopt certain views. As instruction of this type cannot be neutral, they will be taught to base their opinions on "the moral principles contained in the constitution of the Federal state of Bavaria and the Basic Law of the Federal Republic". Pupils will also be asked to make the plurality of confessions and ideologies the basis of their ideas.

Ethics classes will begin in a child's fifth year at school. The first learning aim will be to make the child see that Man is a social animal and that all human action has social relevance.

Everyday occurrences will be used as learning material to show the effects of an individual's actions on other people. It is proposed to discuss characteristics such as considerateness and inconsiderateness, indifference, reliability and unreliability, politeness and impoliteness, reserve and talkativeness.

Teachers are recommended to illustrate these characteristics by taking examples from everyday life, from a film, radio play or even a fairy tale and have them discussed and analysed in group work.

To check that the children are really taking in what they are being taught, certain situations can be specified and pupils can list possible reactions and show what effects these would have.

Other aims of ethics classes at this early stage include knowing the basic needs and basic rights of Man, having the ability and readiness to consider other people's rights and needs and realising the consequences of bad social behaviour.

This style of teaching is continued throughout the whole ethics course. Teaching is not based on the imparting of knowledge but on arousing the intellectual faculties of the child.

Subjects discussed in the sixth year for instance include self-judgement, self-confidence, self-criticism, self-control and self-assertion.

Teaching in the seventh year turns to factors such as fear, pro-authoritarian or anti-authoritarian attitudes, indolence, persistence, aimlessness and prejudice. Conflicts and their settlement follow along with extreme situations such as misfortune, loneliness, despair, guilt, sickness and death.

Ethics teaching in the eighth and ninth years deals with happiness and then discusses the way Christianity, the Jewish religion, Islam, Buddhism and Marxism view life before turning to the art of coexistence, the need for forms of social organisation, conventions and environmental conservation.

The interrelationship between individuals and society is to be discussed in the tenth year along with the process of sexual maturity and questions such as whether the conscience is the "voice of God" or only instinct.

In the eleventh year ethics teaching becomes philosophical. Hedonism, cynicism, epicureanism and stoicism are understood as basic attitudes. Existentialism and ideological criticism are also discussed. The syllabus is also meant to develop pupils' ability to judge the problems of the modern world from various ethical standpoints.

The last two years of ethics teaching deal with the more difficult subjects. Some basic themes of philosophical ethics are discussed along with freedom and determination, norms and decision-making, right and justice and, once again, the pursuance of happiness.

The Education Ministry has so far given 33 Bavarian high schools permission to arrange ethics lessons after obtaining the approval of parents associations.

The standard of teaching depends on the personality of the teacher more than in any other subject. The teacher must therefore satisfy high demands both as far as his knowledge and his character are concerned.

Superficial pseudo-psychological and pseudo-sociological babble about every subject under the sun is as dangerous as indiscretion when discussing psychological problems. A skilled and sensitive educationalist on the other hand will be able to make a lot out of the syllabus.

The Education Ministry will thoroughly examine the files of any teacher applying to take ethics classes. A number of teachers have already been rejected as unsuitable. *Roswin Finkenzeller*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 August 1972)

First aid in schools

The Hartmannbund, a medical association, has proposed that first aid training should be given in this country's schools. A spokesman for the association stated that this instruction would have to be adapted to the various age groups. He added that doctors should agree to take classes of this type if they are set up.

Replying to the proposal, the Ministry of the Interior, Bonn, stated that first aid training could be linked with self-defence and civil defence. The Federal Self-Defence Association — a body subordinate to the Interior Ministry — has been giving information for some time to interested pupils in various schools.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 3 August 1972)

Journalism Academy proves a success

Hamburg's Academy of Journalism can look back on two years of successful work. In seven courses, each lasting a number of weeks, 128 beginners from the Federal states of Hamburg, Bremen, Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony were taught about the technical advances made in newspaper work. Six short courses were also arranged for 182 editors to learn more about their subject.

The most important subjects treated in the seminars were modern production methods of the various media, the press laws, local journalism, questions of foreign policy and audiovisual aids. There were in all 38 speakers from the world of journalism and science.

The Academy, the first educational institution expressingly covering the four North German states, plans to acquaint journalists with the technical progress made in their branch.

Its work is based on the practical aspects of journalism and it always aims at being as up-to-date as possible. Its latest acquisition is an electronic re-editing apparatus.

As a press centre and a centre for all types of mass media, Hamburg provides a lot of encouragement for the educational aims of the Academy.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 27 July 1972)

Survey reveals injustice of schools grading system

Grading is an important and occasionally the only link between school and home. The first question when a child arrives home is often: "Have you had a test?" The second question follows immediately: "And what grade did you get?" The answer can sour the family atmosphere for days.

In view of this it is surprising that no university education department or college of education trains its students to grade properly. When the young teacher stands before his class he rarely masters the basic rules of grading pupils' performance.

This is true in all subjects. The fact that there is a crying need to train future teachers to grade is confirmed by the results of a survey conducted by Professor Gottfried Schröter from Kiel College of Education.

He chose the grading of essays as the subject of the survey and found after extensive trials that one commonly held view is true — the same essay will be given different grades by different teachers, irrespective of the type of school.

A short essay by a nine-year-old girl may be taken as an example. She chose one of 48 subjects offered her and was allowed to write a composition about it as she saw fit.

"I sat by the window, twiddled my thumbs, looked out on to the street and listened to music," she wrote. "I read my book and my friend called me up. She spoke a lot of nonsense. A few children were playing in the rain. They all had raincoats on and I was ill. I had scarlatina."

Nineteen teachers from all parts of the Federal Republic were asked to grade the essay and give their comments. There was one grade one (the highest grade), one grade two (good), five grade threes (satisfactory), four grade fours (adequate), six grade fives (inadequate) and two grade sixes (unsatisfactory).

A professor of German at a college of education (though not in Schleswig-Holstein) judged the little girl's essay as "adequate".

Comments too varied. They ranged from "The child manages to capture convincingly the boredom of a rainy day" and "Mood of boredom well portrayed" to criticisms such as "Slapstick style of expression, sentences arranged without thought of context, misses the point of the essay" and "The essay consists solely of consecutive ideas described in the basest colloquial language".

This means that the schoolgirl could change her teacher though not her standard of performance and in certain circumstances be graded down from a one to a six.

This essay is part of the largest investigation ever to have been undertaken in this field (and not only in the German-speaking area). Six thousand essays were available of which 617 were submitted to a total of 1,113 teachers. Almost twelve thousand grades were awarded and almost twelve thousand comments written.

The survey showed that more than ten per cent o` all the essays — each was read and evaluated by an average of eighteen teachers — were awarded any one of five grades (gradings ranged from one to five or two to six) and that no essay was given the same grading by all teachers.

The results were recently made available to parents, teachers and children in a paperback published by Ferdinand Kemp, Bochum, and called *Die ungerechte Aufsatzzensur* (Unfair Essay Grading). So much for the diagnosis.

Professor Schröter is now trying to achieve a cure in a different way. Recently the same publisher issued an information and training book for grading school essays. It is intended primarily for teachers and schools.

This is the first attempt in any educational branch to give teachers and students exercise in grading. The book — almost one thousand pages long — includes all 617 essays and all the grades and comments as well as an introduction to awarding grades.

Schröter does not believe that scrapping the grade system is anything more than an easy way out of the problem. Pupils and parents would not be satisfied as there would be no way of judging schoolwork.

Kiel College of Education has now turned to grading in other subjects. Should for instance a grading for sport be based solely on a pupil's physical performance?

In other words, should the winner of a national youth event be given at least a grade two for sport, despite the fact that he often indulges in gamesmanship?

Has a physically weaker pupil who is always prepared to give his best and play fair any chance of getting above grade five? Similar problems are to be found in music and art.

Even modern mathematics poses problems. One ten-year-old's work on quantum theory was given to twenty College of Education students near the end of their mathematics course with the request that they should grade it. Even in this subject it was found that the same work was given grades of between one and four, according to the method of evaluation employed.

It will never be possible to be completely fair. But there will be some reason for contentment when the grading system becomes fairer. The information and training book for grading school essays hopes to set this process in motion. It can only be hoped that other people will consider the subject and publish their recommendations in similar works.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 5 August 1972)

■ MEDICINE

Experiments in Frankfurt prove radiated food harmless

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Is food subjected to radiation a bigger cancer threat than products not treated in this way? Does consumption of these foodstuffs lead to genetic damage? These and similar questions have been raised ever since it was discovered that X-rays or accelerated electrons make food keep longer and improve its quality.

Not even the most extensive tests have proved that this is the case, leading many countries to legalise this radiation treatment for some foodstuffs. In the Netherlands radiation treatment is permitted in the case of potatoes, mushrooms, strawberries, asparagus, onions, cocoa beans, prawns and deep-frozen meals.

But steps to legalise radiation treatment of food has not stopped international discussion about whether it can harm health. Organisations in the Federal Republic have also explored the issue.

The Battelle Institute, Frankfurt, fed rats radiated fish. The food content made up fifty per cent and the radiation level amounted to 160 and 40 kilorads (rad is the unit of radiation absorbed).

Findings led to speculation about radiated food causing damage to the nerves. With the help of chronaxietestes researchers found that all groups of male rats and some of the female rats suffered a drop in the efficiency of their central nervous system unlike rats fed untreated food.

This method of examination demonstrates the efficiency of an organ by measuring the time it takes to react to an electronic impulse. The time lag was longer where the rats had been fed radiated food. Similar results had been obtained in previous investigations in which animals were fed fat that had been subject to extremely high doses of radiation.

The most recent research findings published by the Federal Fresh Food Research Institute, Karlsruhe, do not however support the claim that the consumption of radiated foodstuffs will automatically lead to a decrease in the efficiency of the central nervous system. Fourth and fifth generation animals did not react to the food so spectacularly.

Though the measuring method employed in Karlsruhe was the same, the food used was not fish but a substance of which 35 per cent was radiated milk powder. The dose of 4.5 Mrad (million rad) was around the upper limit of the amount considered harmless to foodstuffs and considerably above the maximum of fifteen kilorad (thousand rad) needed to inhibit the sprouting of potatoes or onions.

The very dry radiated diet also had a high content of long-life "free radicals" — molecules and atoms with an odd number of electrons that originate from contact with ionising rays.

The researchers at Karlsruhe arranged their series of tests to find out whether consuming foodstuffs containing these molecules and atoms would have harmful effects such as shortening life expectancy, raising the mutation rate or increasing the frequency of tumours.

They knew from the very outset that any evidence of harmful effects resulting from their experiments would be of limited value as they would still not know whether these free radicals or some other substances in the radiated food caused them.

If no harmful effects were registered, this would give them the answer to the question of whether foodstuffs containing these molecules caused damage to health and also permit general conclusions about the compatibility of radiated foodstuffs.

If the powdered milk — consisting mainly of proteins, fats and carbohydrates — was proved to have no harmful effects after radiation, the researchers argued, there was little likelihood that other foodstuffs made up of the same components would be dangerous to health after similar treatment.

The Health Ministry backed three years of tests which ended in December 1971 by which time a total of 716 rats had been fed a diet with a 35 per cent radiated milk powder content.

Forty-five rats were fed a diet with anything up to an eighty per cent radiated milk powder content over the course of one year. Additional tests on 750 mice were conducted to examine mutation.

The results were as hoped though not as had been necessarily expected — sickness, infertility and other signs of the harmful biological effect of radiated food were no more frequent than among another set of animals used as a control.

Some generations of animals fed the radiated diet were a little lighter in weight than the others though this is not a sign of illness, merely evidence that the rats were not being given enough vitamins.

It had long been known that high doses of radiation affected vitamins particularly strongly and this is a factor that can be compensated. When rats were given additional vitamins there was no longer any difference in weight.

The differences in weight of the other rats also disappeared after a constant diet had been given to them for a longish period. The vitamin E and B1 content drops after radiation. The vitamin A content drops to a lesser extent.

No other biological effects were observed. As the experiment continued throughout a number of generations, the findings are more likely to be reliable, especially where the lack of later genetic damage is concerned.

Radiated foodstuffs may even have some advantages over food treated or conserved in other ways. In Britain for example radiated fodder has long been used to breed germ free animals lacking specific pathogenic agents. The animals fare much better than if they were fed foodstuffs sterilised by heat or chemicals.

Karl-Heinz Preuss

(Der Tagesspiegel, 5 August 1972)

Parkinson's disease main target of new brain surgery ward

A brain surgery treatment centre opened recently in the new hospital at Altona, a Hamburg suburb. The centre is equipped with the most modern apparatus, including a stereotactic position-finder that can be inserted into the brain through an extremely small hole bored in the skull to locate areas of the brain causing complaints and eliminate them by means of electrode treatment.

The new centre will be particularly useful treating Parkinson's disease which was always considered incurable in the past. Patients in the operating theatre will be asked to write a phrase or sentence while they still have the controlling equipment around their head and the electrode in their brain and will find that they are able to write legibly once again.

Hydrocephalus, a children's disease that is the nightmare of many parents, can also be treated today, especially in early infancy, although the basic causes of this disease vary and are partially unknown.

But it is known that healthy people produce a daily quantity of one to two cups full of cerebrospinal fluid, a watery substance surronding the brain and spinal cord. When the circulation of cerebrospinal fluid is blocked in any way, there is an abnormal enlargement of the skull and a build-up of pressure on the brain.

The great turning-point in treating this disease was the invention of a tube system attached at one end to the right side of the brain via a hole bored in the skull over the right ear.

The other end is fitted with a valve and attached to a large vein leading to the right auricle of the heart. The excess cerebrospinal fluid can then flow back into the blood between heartbeats — after all it is derived from the blood.

Ernst Burkhardt

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 19 July 1972)

Health check shock

Almost one man in two and one woman in three attending preventive examinations in Westphalia were found to have complaints that needed treatment, it was recently stated in Dortmund. An alarmingly large number of children under four also needed treatment.

In the first nine months since the introduction of the preventive examinations campaign last July 0.1 per cent of the 270,000 women who consulted a doctor under the scheme were found to have cancer in an early stage of development.

Doctors found that thirty per cent of the women had other complaints that needed treatment.

Only 0.04 per cent of the 71,000 men examined during the same period were found to be suffering from cancer. But 45 per cent had a previously undiagnosed prostate complaint or other diseases needing treatment.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 August 1972)

Cerebral manometers debated at Hanover medical congress

The human skull is a rigid structure containing the brain, blood vessels nourishing the brain and a fluid in which the brain "swims". If pressure increases within the skull, its contents are immediately threatened.

As the cerebrospinal fluid is unable to escape, an excess will lead to blood being squeezed from the vessels, jeopardising the nourishment of the brain, our most important organ. The resulting oxygen shortage causes damage to the sensitive brain cells or kills them off completely.

The pressure within the skull is of vital importance. An increase in this pressure may be due to the bursting of a blood vessel, the subsequent formation of a blood clot, the growth of a tumour or a swelling of the brain caused in serious cases of concussion. This occurs in seventy per cent of serious road accidents — the brain is often affected.

Doctors have long known about the importance of this brain pressure but accurate measurement has only been possible since the invention of electronic measuring techniques.

Fifteen years ago Professor Nils Lundberg, the Swedish neuro-surgeon, developed a method to measure brain pressure over a number of days. A hole is bored in the skull and a soft catheter inserted into the cerebral ventricles.

Brain substance is destroyed though it is only the unimportant parts of the brain that are affected. The advantage of the method is that doctors can observe all changes and see their effects on a patient's consciousness and on vital functions such as blood pressure and respiration.

But there is also a drawback. As the catheter penetrates the scalp and skull-bone, infections occasionally develop at the point of insertion, necessitating high doses of antibiotics.

At a recent scientific conference in Hanover 250 doctors from all parts of the globe met to discuss the latest methods of measuring brain pressure. Particular interest was shown in a new technique demonstrated by Dr Mario Brock and his staff at the neuro-surgical clinic of Hanover Medical College.

A tiny instrument has been developed here with the help of technicians to transmit measurements from inside the skull without the use of wires. It consists of a fine metallic membrane embedded in silicon rubber and registers all changes of pressure. The measurements are passed on by a tiny transmitter run off a mini-battery.

The equipment is as small as a ten-pfennig piece and as thin as the human scalp. It is placed in a hole in the scalp and the skin above it is stitched up again so that no infection can occur.

The danger of infection can be consurements for about a fortnight to a receiver placed by the patient's bed. Changes in brain pressure are recorded day and night in the form of a curve.

The equipment has the added advantage that patients — who are usually restless and rather depressed — need not lie still because of all the wires attached to them but can move about freely.

As an estimated five thousand people injured in road accidents die every year because the pressure within their skull cannot be measured or controlled, this equipment will certainly occupy an important position in neuro-surgical practice. It can also record the effects of drugs given to the patient.

Neuro-surgeons at the Essen hospital run by the Ruhr University, Bochum, spoke of an even tinier apparatus with a diameter of only six millimetres. But it does depend on wires attached to the recording equipment.

However, the hole in the patient's scalp is smaller and the apparatus can be inserted into the interior of the skull without too much damage to the bone and meninges.

The danger of infection can be controlled in all cases where the equipment is used to record important data about the vital functions of recently-operated patients. Both instruments will prove a life-saver after operations or accidents in future. *Helmut Holscher*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 9 August 1972)

Heart ailments top list

Heart and circulation diseases are the main cause of death in this country, followed by cancer and malignant tumours, according to a survey conducted by the Colonia Life Insurance Company of Cologne.

The company investigated the causes of death among policy-holders in 1971 and found that 36.3 per cent had died of diseases affecting the heart and circulation.

Almost 25 per cent of policy-holders died of cancer and malignant tumours. The third most common cause of death was accidents with 9.6 per cent.

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 8 August 1972)

OUR WORLD

Group dynamics therapy catches on in Bonn

NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG

"Now I can express my affection and tenderness much better," admitted one young man, another believed he had discovered another organisation that helps lonely people find their partner for life, and one woman was so horrified after three days that she fled.

These are just three of many reactions to partnership training organised by the Centre for Group Dynamics under the direction of Professor Alf Däumling from Bonn, working in conjunction with the Institute of Group Psychotherapy, Beverly Hills.

It would be quite exaggerated to speak of a new movement for "sensitivity training". "We need a lot more practical experience", admits Professor Alf Däumling who has trained 1,500 people in behavioural analysis at his Centre for Group Dynamics at the Psychological Institute of Bonn University in the past seven years.

And he added: "There is a great danger that there could be many uncontrolled offshoots." Thus the training experiments being carried out by the Federal Republic Research Community are accompanied by additional research.

It is certain that when the congress of psychologists is held in Saarbrücken in October the varying opinions on group dynamics will conflict violently. Some psychologists boost it as a method of increasing self-awareness and self-confidence, a way of becoming freer and more aware, a way of realising true humanity and true democracy, while others denounce it as a kind of orgy, the work of charlatans or a way of making profits out of isolating people and causing them discomfort.

The Centre for Group Dynamics in Bonn is one of dozens of working groups run by recognised trainers in the Federal Republic. Compared with the United States, the home of group therapy, the 1,500 people who have had this kind of treatment in the past seven years pale into insignificance.

The Federal Republic trainer has been working in close cooperation with his American colleagues. The team in Bonn even brought George R. Bach, Director of the Institute of Group Psychotherapy, Beverly Hills, across the Atlantic for their mammoth experiment, along with his colleague Alex Vilumsons.

In their two weeks in Bonn and Bad Godesberg the psychologists, sociologists and therapeutics experts played out three forms of sensitivity training simultaneously: the 24-hour marathon, the week-long course in partnership training for married couples and individuals as well as Art Therapy.

The training depends on the inherent dynamism of the closed groups and from practical exercises in ritualistic form that is to say on rules in which for example one's own aggressive tendencies are used constructively, minimising the destructive and damaging elements of conflict, giving more scope to information on the reasons for friction and the extent of one's perturbation, etcetera.

Among the most common rituals used in this training are Feedback (one person tells another what he finds irritating in him), haircut (one person tells another in quite violent terms the sort of things that peeve him, but asks for advance permission to do so), Virginia Woolf (exchange of insults), Vesuvius (general outbursts of rage) and slave market (one person is first a good slave, then a good master to someone else).

At the beginning of the training the married couples and individuals had to draw up a catalogue of grievances ("museum"). When this list was gone through, a number of hatchets were buried, a number of grouses were described as a "blow below the belt" and others were described as an object of fair dispute ("Fair fight for change").

About eighty per cent of those participating in this group dynamics – closed societies of between sixteen and thirty participants – stated that they found the exercises "constructive and helpful". Only a few said they were "burdensome, frustrating and irksome".

Most participants found "an expansion of their inner life" and "personal growth". But one woman complained: "I am now more aware of my feelings and wish I weren't".

One male participant was happy that "I can now express my feelings much more coherently".

The psychologists were satisfied with the outcome of the experiment, but were only prepared to describe it as a "workshop situation". It is not yet clear how far the training will affect the everyday life of the marrieds and individuals who took part. But the trainers hope they will be able to gauge this after three months or so, when they conduct a survey.

Gerd-Ulrich Brandenburg

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 10 August 1972)

Working women die young

Women who go out to work tend to die on the average seven to eight years younger than working men. These surprising statistics published by the Federal Insurance Association for White-Collar Workers (BfA) are obviously explained by the fact that working women overburden themselves with a career and a household to look after.

According to the BfA statistics the average life expectancy of working women (1970) was only 68.5 years while male white-collar workers could expect to live nearly 76 years. The BfA state, however, that women who do part-time work can expect to live longer, their average life expectancy being 77.5 years.

The BfA say that the number of people invalided out of their jobs at an early age increased remarkable between 1962 and 1970. In 1962 there were 24,117 men and 21,553 women pensioned off early because they were unable to carry on their profession, but by 1970 the figures had risen to 31,730 men and 26,768 women.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 August 1972)

Godesberg pundits probe attitude towards marriage

Marriage is a sick and ailing institution, out of date and boring, a fetter. These are some of the slogans that have been levelled against the age-old institution in recent years by its critics. Today it seems as though the attacks have done marriage some good. A form of the sanctioned living together that was often practised in the past seems to be dying out – there are today fewer marriages of convenience.

The Bad Godesberg Institute for public hygiene, careers advice and medicine on the factory floor has carried out an investigation to try to answer the question: why do people still marry today? The result was surprising. The Institute discovered from marriage guidance councils, files in "pairing" agencies and wishes expressed in "contact ads" in the press that seventy per cent of people in the marriage market look for good character, human kindness and particular attributes in their partner. The economic factor has taken a back seat, according to the head of the Institute, Professor Ewald Gerfeldt.

Particularly interesting information was gleaned from a list of preferences expressed in a special survey conducted last year by the Bad Godesberg Institute. Asked about the qualities of their ideal wife most men said: thrifty, sexy, faithful and natural. The Federal Republic's women lay particular emphasis on faithfulness and hard work in their husbands.

The investigation uncovered one or two startling factors in men's and women's ideas:

– 56 per cent of men praise their wife's sex appeal, but only 46 per cent consider the "missus" clever. But 51 per cent of women consider their husband is smart.

– Men in this country seem to be quite faithful. 62 per cent of women believe the "old man" has not got another woman on the side. But only 54 per cent of men are convinced their wife has "forsaken all others".

– There are signs that many men lay great emphasis on outward appearances. One wife in two reckons her husband is attractive, but only 45 per cent consider he is a good lover.

This is the complete "hit parade" of attributes of marriage partners. Firstly, the things husbands find appealing about their wives: thrift (67 %), sex appeal (56 %), faithfulness (54 %), natural qualities (53 %), warm-heartedness (50 %), beauty (50 %), cleanliness (47 %) and intelligence (46 %). And vice versa: faithfulness (62 %), diligence at work (56 %), intelligence (51 %), good looks (50 %), warm-heartedness (48 %), thrift (45 %), sex appeal (43 %) and honesty (41 %).

The experts in BAd Godesberg have also taken a closer look at the divorce figures. In their view marriages quite often founder because there is "someone else". This happens when:

– marriages are made with the partners full of illusions and daydreams and one or both are not mature enough for marriage;

– both partners are the same age, but the mental age of the woman makes her personality more highly developed than that of her husband;

– a man marries during his climateric, taking up with a younger girl as his sexual powers fade in an attempt to prove his continued virility.

Professor Gerfeldt gives this advice to doctors and psychologists specialising in marriage guidance: "Nothing can be achieved by doling out consolation, reprimands, admonitions and commandments or by putting on an authoritarian style and pontificating."

The experts feel that it is far more important for people suffering from a sick and ailing marriage to be taken right out of themselves and given new self-respect.

Ludo Zumwald/PAM

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 August 1972)

A can(ine) life

More pets today are being fed on a diet of tinned food. The food requirements of the Federal Republic's quadrupeds are met by prepared food to about nine per cent. In Britain, however, 26 per cent of canine and feline needs are met by canned foods, and in the USA as much as fifty per cent.

The Federal Republic dog and cat food market is growing by between fifteen and twenty per cent per annum, and in the current year it is estimated that 500 million Marks will be spent on tinned pet food.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 7 August 1972)

Convicts protest

A protest by a few prisoners on the roof has brought benefits for all convicts in *Anstalt II* of Hamburg Prison. In negotiations lasting more than seven hours between Justice Senator Heinsen and officials in the penal service and spontaneously elected prisoners councils a whole catalogue of improvements has been drawn up to make life behind bars more tolerable.

Among the improvements for *Anstalt II*, which has 495 inmates found guilty of crimes in the Federal states of Hamburg, Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein, 72 of them "lifers", is permission for convicts to wear wristwatches and have alarm clocks at their bedside.

From 1 October they will be able to earn pocket money as blood donors and spend this on foodstuffs as they please. Furthermore they will be able to listen to VHF radio broadcasts in future.

Finally the six television sets in the common rooms will be provided with programme recorders so that interesting broadcasts during working hours, the Olympics for instance, can be recorded and seen in the evening leisure hours.

Another provision that has been agreed on is that during leisure hours the cell doors in the five-storey building will be left open so that prisoners can intermingle and ease their loneliness problems by chatting to each other.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 4 August 1972)

Do-it-yourself music

Do-it-yourself music-making certainly does not seem to be old hat. In one house in three in the Federal Republic there is a musical instrument of some description.

The Federal Association of Musical Instrument Manufacturers recently published the results of a survey of a cross section of the public showing that at the end of October last year there was a musical instrument in about seven million of the nearly 21 million private households in the country.

People in Baden-Württemberg would appear to be the most musically inclined. In this Federal state 41 per cent of homes have a musical instrument. In Bavaria the figure is 37 per cent and in all other states about thirty per cent.

According to the instrument manufacturers the level of income in a house has a lot to do with deciding whether a musical instrument is owned or not. In households where the net income was less than 1,000 Marks a month only thirty per cent had a piano, violin, etcetera. In the 1,000-1,200 Mark bracket the figure was up to 37 per cent and over 1,200 Marks it was 45 per cent. But above 1,200 Marks increasing income did not seem to affect the chances of an instrument being available.

The survey also showed that music at home is most common in houses where there are children of school age.

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 4 August 1972)

MUNICH

Olympic medical facilities maintain 24-hour service

Medical centres and first aid posts staffed by 629 doctors and 1,721 first aid workers, helicopters, more than 100 ambulances and medical supplies worth a million and a half Marks will be on stand-by during the Olympic Games to cater for the requirements of 12,000 athletes, officials and aides; 4,000 journalists, 28,000 Olympic staff and more than two million visitors to Munich. In conjunction with the Bundeswehr, first aid organisations and the local authorities the Olympic medical committee has tried to provide for every eventuality in planning for the Games.

"The medical service subdivides into two levels," says Professor Hans-Joachim Sewering, head of the Bavarian Medical Council and, for the duration of the Games, of the medical centre in the Olympic village.

The one sector is concerned with medical facilities for athletes, Olympic villagers, journalists and VIPs, the other with medical assistance for visitors and staff and supplies and bed distribution.

The two sectors have been strictly separated, Sewering says, in order to ensure ideal, safe medical facilities. Medical organisation in preparation for the 1972 Olympics commenced in 1969 when the twenty-member medical committee chaired by Dr. Erich Hein of the Bavarian Health Ministry started work.

"Dress rehearsals have proved that our plans are the right ones," says Dr Kurt Käfer, the Olympic medical director. All that had remained to be done was work out final operational details.

The medical centre for athletes, Olympic villagers and journalists (who also have medical facilities of their own in the press centre) is right in the middle of the village.

It contains all facilities that were felt to be necessary, including laboratories and X-ray cameras, physical therapy equipment, special lifts for transporting stretcher patients, a pharmacy and wards containing 25 beds.

The emergency ward, the internal medicine department and the dental service work round the clock and the 56 doctors include ear, nose and throat specialists, gynaecologists, dermatologists, radiologists and ophthalmologists.

Specially trained teams of surgeons, orthopaedic specialists, anaesthetists, assistants and nurses from Munich hospitals will relieve one another in the Olympic village emergency ward every 24 hours.

Patients in need of further special attention will be transferred to one or other of the normal Munich hospitals by the bed distribution centre.

In addition to this specialised service the Olympic organising committee has set up a temporary hospital for visitors and staff in its own medical centre, which is being run by Doctor-General Ernst Rebentisch and is housed in the Bundeswehr medical college.

This hospital is similarly designed for an initial check-up and a short stay. It is fully equipped, has 120 beds and an emergency ward and is staffed by specialists in surgery, internal medicine, orthopaedics, gynaecology, radiology, dermatology and anaesthesia. Here too there is a round-the-clock service.

All in all 629 doctors and 1,721 first aid workers will be associated with medical facilities at the 1972 Olympic Games. Doctors from all over the country have volunteered, according to Professor Sewering.

A doctor with specialist experience is at the ready for each and every discipline. Team doctors will be given every assistance they may need, Sewering says.

The facilities of the medical centre and the pharmacy will certainly be at their disposal. The central pharmacy in the Olympic village has 1.5 million Marks' worth of medicine and supplies ready for transfer to anywhere they are needed. The composition of all pharmaceutical products is listed in tabular form in order to avoid misunderstandings.

Doctors and first aid workers will be on stand-by everywhere, whether at training sessions or during the heats and finals. In the Olympic Stadium alone 24 doctors and sixty male and female assistants will be on hand during the various heats.

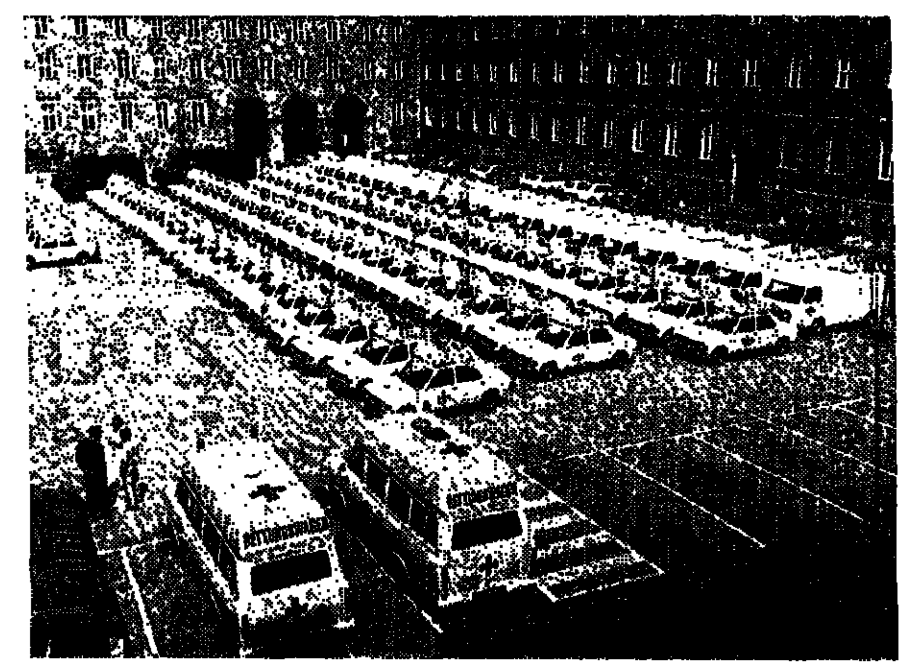
The armed forces will be providing a medical staff of 1,819 men, including 233 doctors. Doctors, first aid workers and ambulances will also be supplied by the Bavarian Red Cross, the Life-Saving Society and the St John's Ambulance Association.

The Red Cross alone will be fielding a staff of 735. "We have only taken on Bavarian volunteers," Dr Bernhard Kläss of the Ministry of Labour and the Bavarian Red Cross emphasises. "They know their way around and can lend assistance as swiftly as possible."

The fleet of medical vehicles will be correspondingly large, 230 vehicles, including 100 ambulances, all of which have already reported for duty. Six helicopters will be in service solely for the Olympics in order to fly the seriously ill straight to the nearest hospital.

Heliports have so far been in existence only at Harlaching hospital, which is where the road patrol rescue copters of ADAC, the motoring organisation, are stationed, and the Rinockerklinik. Additional landing facilities have been made available at Schwabing hospital and the Klinikum rechts der Isar and a heliport at Neuperlach hospital will be taken into service during the Games.

In order to ensure that a sufficient number of hospital beds would be available no advance bookings have been accepted at Munich hospitals for the months of August and September, emergencies excepted, of course.



Olympic ambulances line up for action (Photo: dpa)

In addition, Edmund Würzinger of the city hospitals department notes, thirty beds are being kept in reserve in the infectious diseases ward at Schwabing hospital. The emergency ward at Schwabing has also been doubled in capacity for the Olympics.

Neuperlach, a new hospital, will also be ready in time for the Olympics to take a certain number of patients in at least. "Plans have been drawn up," Herr Würzinger States. "Staff will certainly be on hand to cater for demand during the Olympic period."

The health department is responsible for hygiene measures, whether on the Olympic site or in the city, in foodstuffs supervision, in the youth camp, which is being looked after by the Red Cross and the Federal Border Patrol, or refuse disposal.

Water samples will regularly be taken for analysis, according to Dr Fred Bayer of the city health department. A round-the-clock watch will be kept on parking lots that lack sanitary facilities.

A round-the-clock scrutiny will also be kept at airports to inspect vaccination certificates and to keep visitors under observation or order them into quarantine should this appear necessary. But, as Bayer says, "there is more than enough vaccine on hand should the need arise."

Last but not least the catastrophe corps, a Federal Republic variation on the civil defence corps, have worked out a detailed plan in the event of natural disaster. At police headquarters representatives of the city authorities, the welfare department, the city surveyor's department, the health department and the cemeteries department will maintain an emergency service.

This emergency service will be in continual contact with the police, the fire brigade and the catastrophe corps headquarters, which will just have been completed in time for the Games.

"If the need arises we can immediately mobilise 1,200 to 1,400 men of the fire brigade and the technical assistance corps not to mention reservists," it is noted. Should the number of hospital beds be insufficient the facilities of the Bundeswehr hospital and an epidemic hospital can be utilised.

"We have thought of everything," Dr Kläss says. "It really ought to work." A 220-page medical directory in three languages outlines the facilities. In hotels where VIPs will be staying doctors will be on hand to aid the VIPs' own doctors if need be.

The regular emergency doctors' service in Munich has also been reinforced for the Games and no GPs will be on holiday during the period in question.

One can but hope that no one will do anything insane, Professor Sewering comments, above all that there is no outbreak of smallpox, which always calls for far-reaching measures and creates unrest.

Heidrun Graupner

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 August 1972)

VIP treatment for 4,000 Olympic journalists

Four thousand journalists from all over the world will be living in luxury at the Munich Olympics, eating, drinking, sleeping and, perish the thought, working. The organisers, realising that the radio, TV and pressmen covering the Olympics represent public relations, have decided to spare neither effort nor expense to keep them happy.

They are welcomed on behalf of the "crew" by Olympic press chief Hans "Johnny" Klein. The crew consists of fifty full-time staff of the press office, forty heads of the various press centres, 180 hostesses, fourteen interpreters, 1,045 stewards, 172 doormen, 95 messengers, 226 coach and car drivers, 75 motor cycle couriers, 360 results messengers, 430 aides with the results printing service and one chef de cuisine with a kitchen staff of 340.

If these figures are anything to go by certainly no effort is being spared. Klein even notes that handtowels are replaced every day, bed linen only every other day. Plans have even been made to cover the possibility of a journalist dying at his desk. Allianz have donated an insurance scheme guaranteeing the wife and children he leaves behind a lump sum of 50,000 Marks.

Willi Daume, president of the organising committee, realised six years ago in Rome when he succeeded in gaining acceptance of Munich as the venue of the 1972 Olympics that journalists who are in any way dissatisfied with their accomodation or the services at their disposal will cast the Olympics in a bad light even though they may have been a roaring success. This is something his press "crew" have taken to heart.

In view of the importance attached to representatives of the press there seemed to be a good case for giving all 4,000 accredited Olympic journalists VIP treatment.

As soon as they set foot in the press centre a hostess is assigned to them to enquire after their every want. Everything, it is hoped, has been thought of to ensure that they are kept happy.

But as is so often the case, people who have everything want even more. This at any rate is the impression the hard-working Olympic press staff have gained as complaints come rolling in.

As a rule they are only minor worries, but, sad to say, this is the sort of thing that is mentioned on TV and in the papers. One journalist was annoyed that he had to share his bathroom with four others. Another nearly caused an uproar because the press was not to be allowed to interview every inhabitant of the Olympic village at all hours of the day and night. One was piqued because the hostesses appear to have no free time on their hands.

"Johnny" Klein has been quick to issue a new instruction. In cases of doubt the benefit must always be given to the journalist. This was an easy decision to take because complaints so far have been minor and no one is going to let the Olympic ship be spoiled for a ha'pennyworth of tar.

Bodo Harenberg

(Handelsblatt, 11 August 1972)